

# Prospects for Low- $x$ Physics at RHIC

This is not a talk on an electron-ion collider. This is a talk about how improved experimental instrumentation at RHIC can extend kinematic reach to low- $x$ . Such improvements have impact on measurements sensitive to high gluon densities in heavy-ion physics and on determining the polarization of gluons to low- $x$  for spin physics.

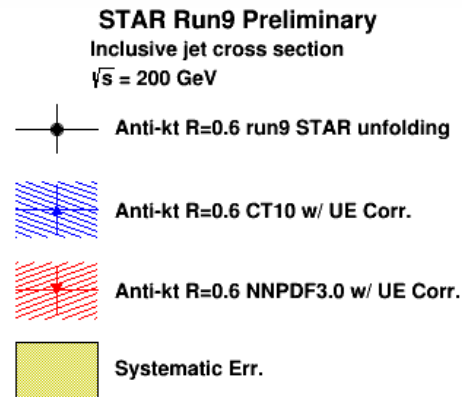
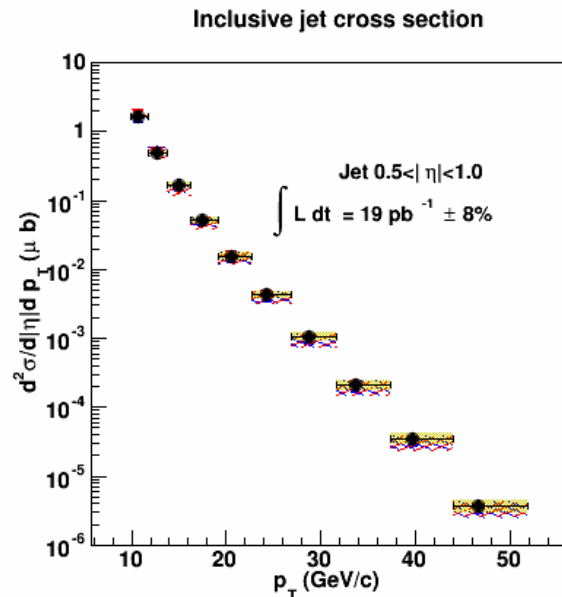
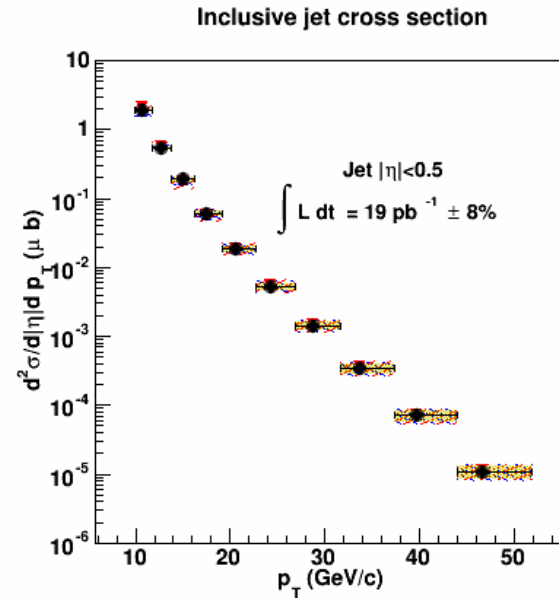
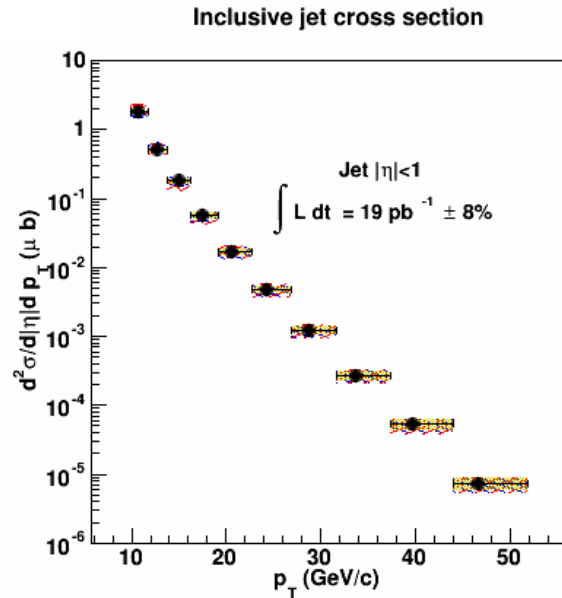
L.C.Bland  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
POETIC-7 Workshop, Temple University  
15 November 2016



p+p→jets,  $\sqrt{s}=200$  GeV

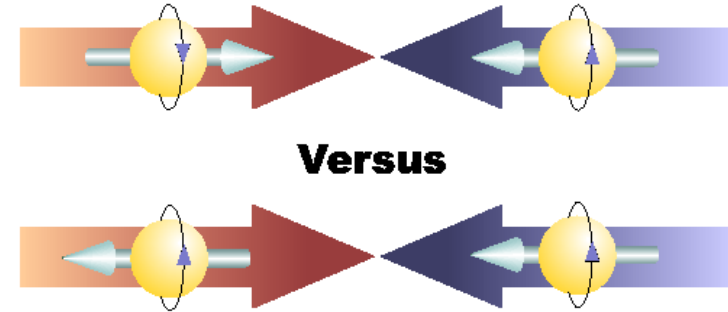
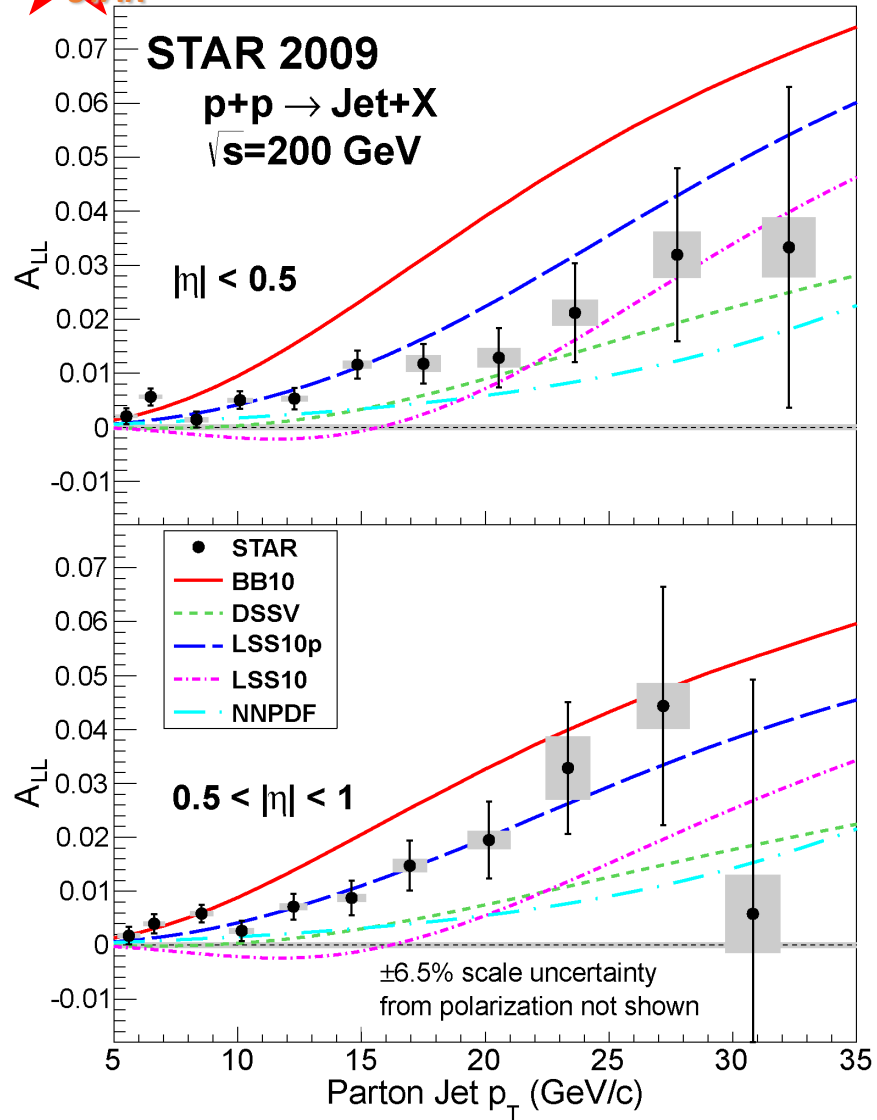
# RHIC and midrapidity

- Sophisticated mid-rapidity detectors have delivered a wealth of information about QCD in p+p, p+A, and A+A collisions
- Jet cross sections in p+p collisions at  $\sqrt{s}=200$  GeV compare well to global analyses of parton distribution functions [arXiv:1506.06314]
- Many other examples can be provided



arXiv:1506.06314

# ★ RHIC as a Polarized Collider



$$A_{LL} = \frac{\sigma_{++} - \sigma_{+-}}{\sigma_{++} + \sigma_{+-}}$$

- Helicity asymmetry for inclusive jet production at midrapidity is measured as a function of  $p_T$ .
- Measurements are sensitive to  $\langle x \rangle \sim 2p_T/\sqrt{s}$

arXiv:1405.5134

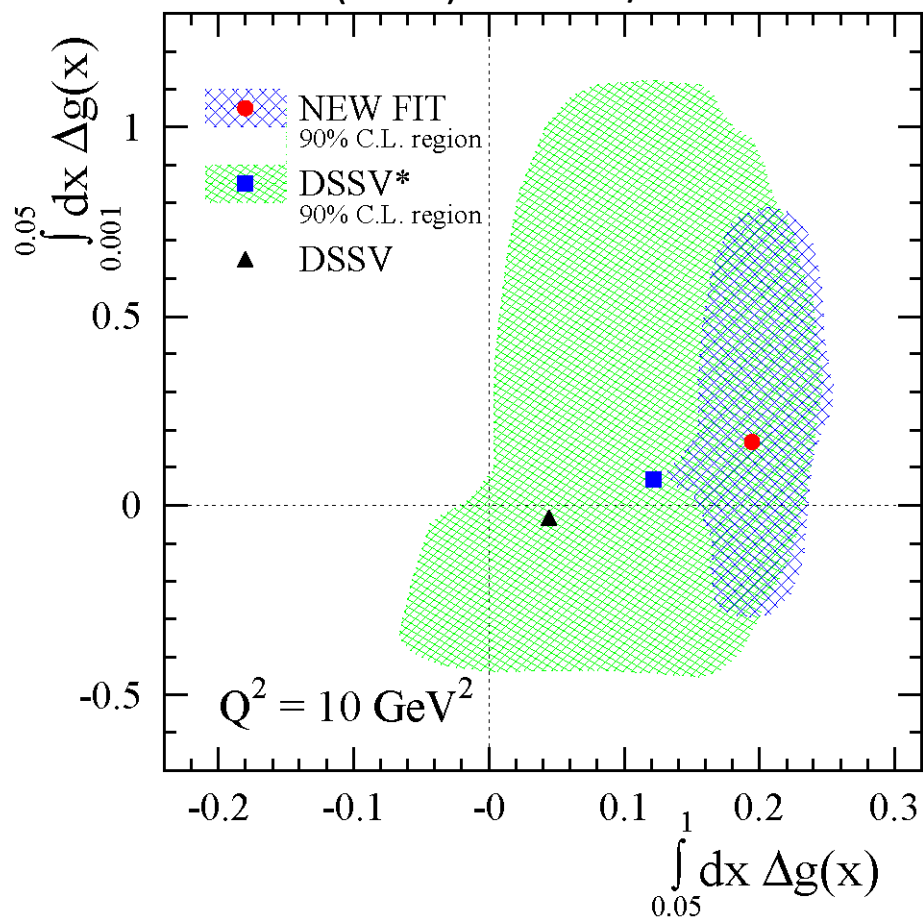
PRL 115 (2015) 092002

# Gluon Polarization

## Large Uncertainty in Low-x Gluon Contribution to Proton Spin

de Florian, Sassot, Stratmann, Vogelsang

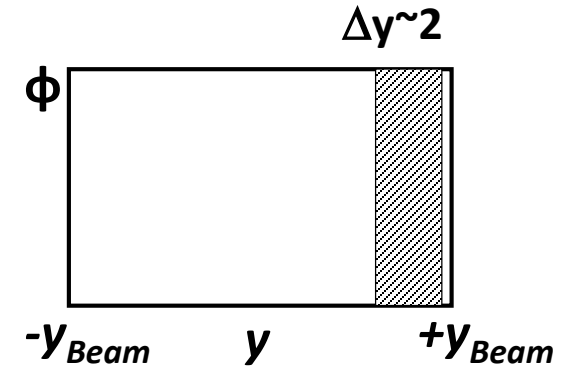
PRL 113 (2014) 012001 / arXiv:1404.4293



- Spin decomposition of proton:  $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \Sigma + \Delta G + L_q + L_g$  [arXiv:1309.4235] in terms of quark and gluon spin and orbital angular momentum
- In measured range of  $x$  [midrapidity], global analysis [arXiv:1404.4293] of world data determines  $\Delta G = 0.20 \pm 0.06$  for  $x > 0.05$  at  $Q^2 = 10 \text{ GeV}^2$
- For  $x < 0.05$ , little is known experimentally until an EIC
- RHIC can still make measurements sensitive to gluon polarization down to  $x \sim 10^{-3}$  with forward instrumentation

# Forward Particle Production

- In this talk, forward means when the observed particle Feynman-x ( $x_F=2p_z/\sqrt{s}$ ) scaling variable is larger than 0.1
- In general, sufficient  $p_T$  is required so that pQCD is applicable. Consequently, forward is further defined to require sufficient  $p_T$  [which looks to be  $\sim 2$  GeV/c for inclusive  $\pi^0$  production]
- RHIC interaction regions have uniquely large length for a collider, when scaled by  $\sqrt{s}$ . This interaction length does permit space for forward instrumentation



	Free Space (m)	$\sqrt{s}$ (GeV)	Ratio (L/ $\sqrt{s}$ )
Tevatron	13	1600	0.0081
LHC	38	13000	0.0029
RHIC	16	500	0.032
	16	200	0.080

Consider the separation in x-y plane ( $d_{\gamma\gamma}$ ) of a pair of photons from the decay  $M \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ , when the plane is L from where M (mass  $m_M$ ) is produced:

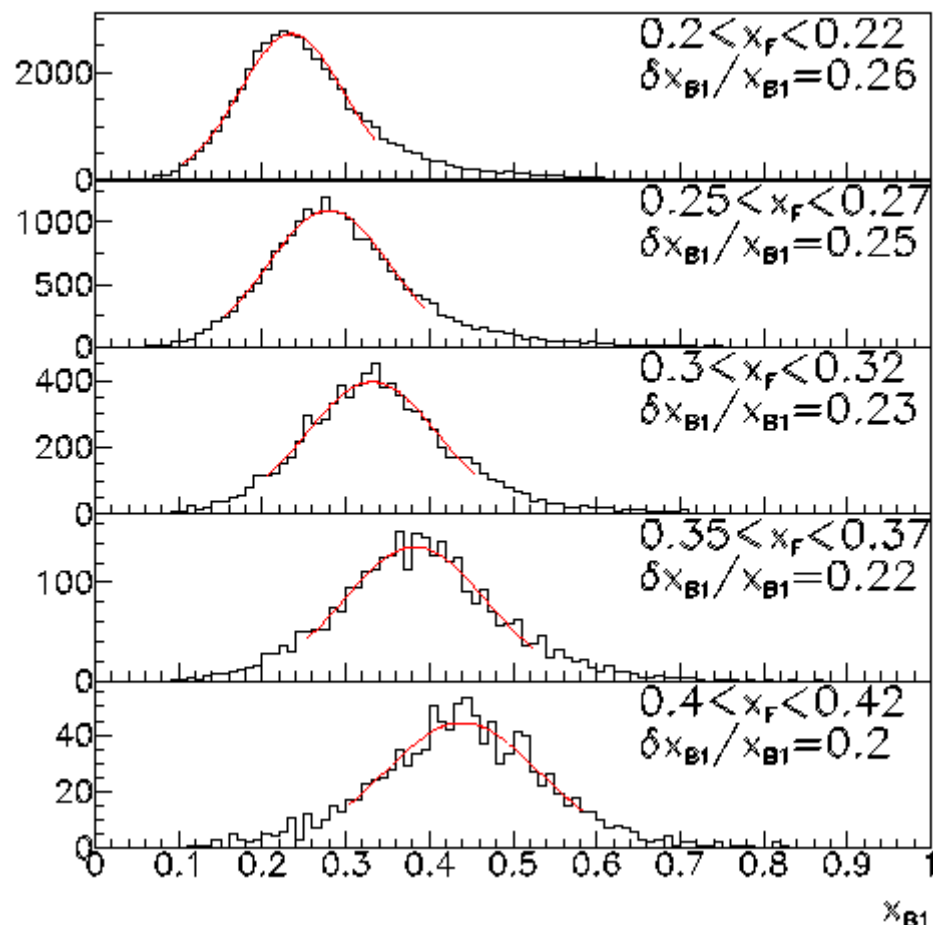
$$d_{\gamma\gamma}^{min} = \frac{L}{\sqrt{s}} \frac{4m_M}{x_F}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Large  $L/\sqrt{s}$  enables reconstruction of light mesons to large  $x_F$  at large  $\sqrt{s}$

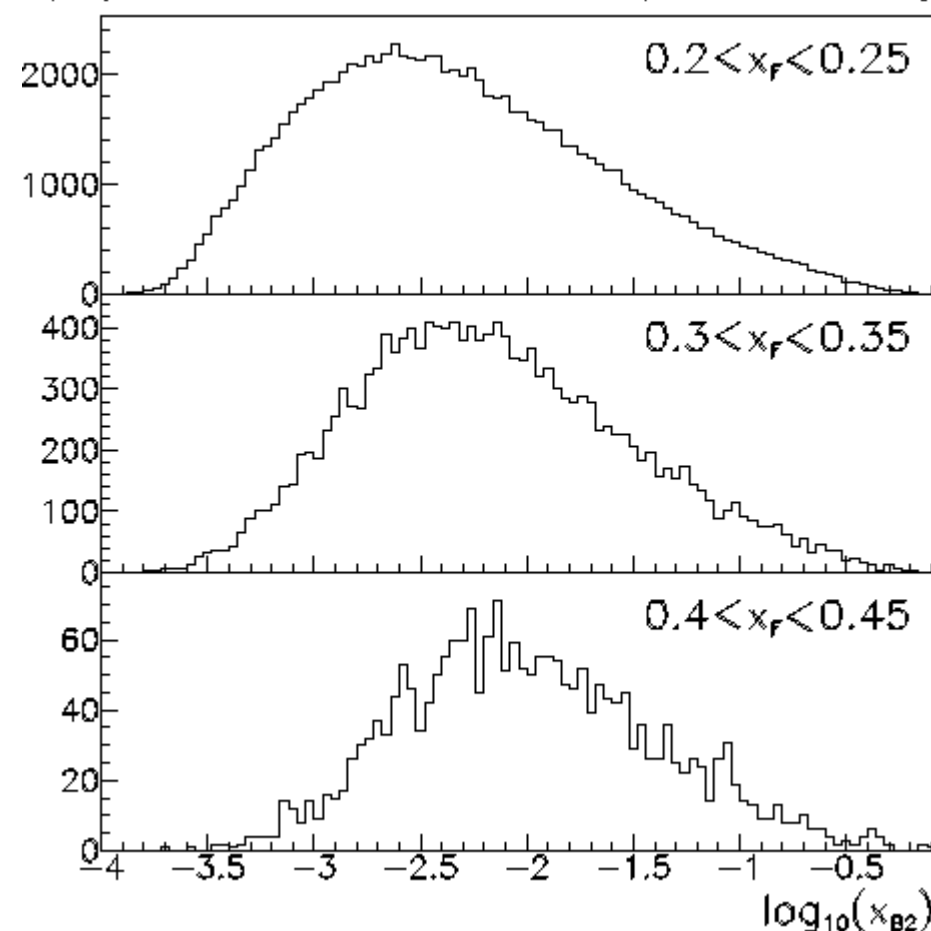
# Why is large $x_F$ useful?

For inclusive production via hard scattering ( $2 \rightarrow 2$  processes),  $x_F \sim x_1 - x_2$ , where  $x_1$  is the Bjorken  $x$  of the parton from the hadron heading towards the apparatus and  $x_2$  is the Bjorken  $x$  of the parton from the other colliding hadron. In general, forward particle production probes these  $x$  values at “low scale” (as set by  $p_T$ ). Distributions are for inclusive forward jets.

p+p,  $\sqrt{s}=510$  GeV, PYTHIA 6.222/GEANT, tower jets



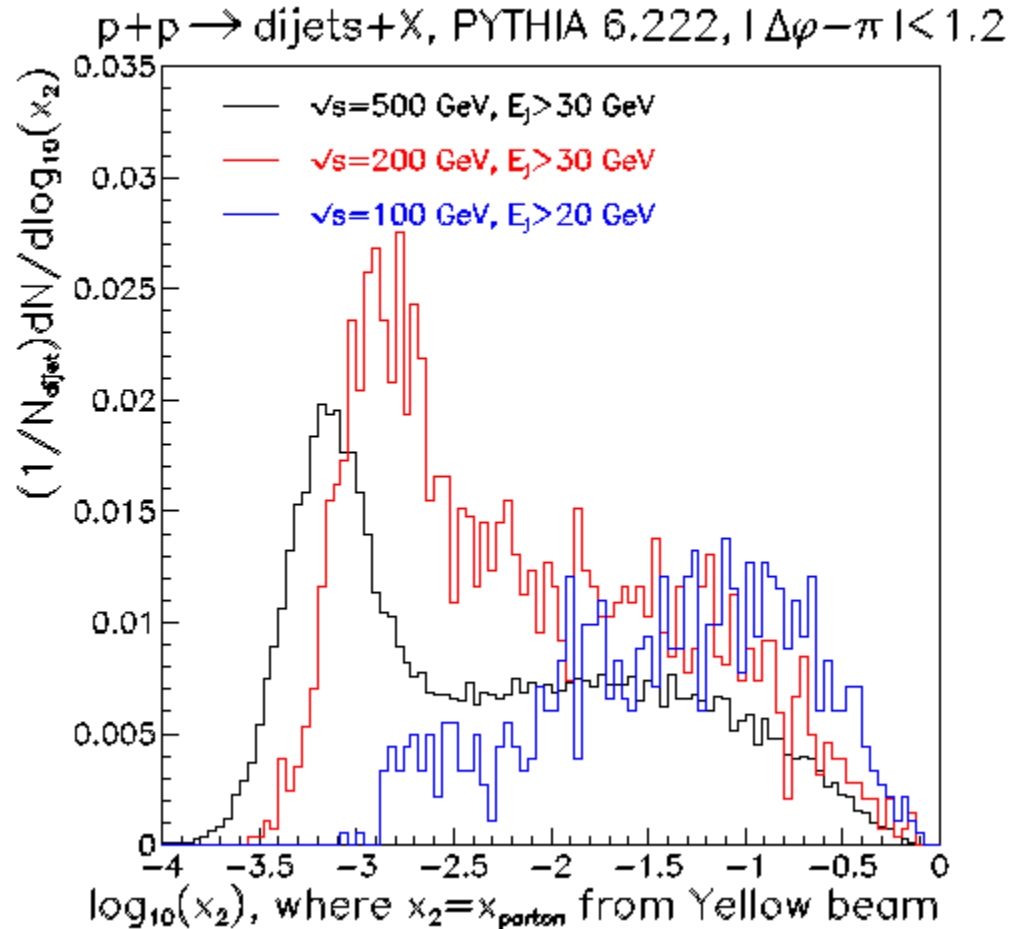
p+p,  $\sqrt{s}=510$  GeV, PYTHIA 6.222/GEANT, tower jets



11/15/2016 Valence-like quarks for  $x_F > 0.1$

Low-x at RHIC  $x_2$  is broad, but extends to very low  $x$  ( $\sim \text{few} \times 10^{-4}$ ).  
Forward dijets can select low  $x$  (see below)

# Forward Dijets



Reconstruction of  $>1$  jet in the forward direction can emphasize hard-scattering contributions from low- $x$  gluons

Examples of why this is important are

- Extending probes of gluon polarization to low- $x$  by measurement of longitudinal double-spin asymmetries
- Sensitivity to low- $x$  gluons in heavy ions

# Proposals for Forward Upgrades at RHIC

- Forward sPHENIX – see [http://www.phenix.bnl.gov/phenix/WWW/publish/dave/sPHENIX/pp\\_pA\\_whitepaper.pdf](http://www.phenix.bnl.gov/phenix/WWW/publish/dave/sPHENIX/pp_pA_whitepaper.pdf)
- STAR Forward Detector Update – see arXiv:1602.03922 and E. Aschenauer talk in session 4B
- Forward Calorimeter at STAR – described below following Outline
  - Prior use of FCal at RHIC – forward jet and dijet cross sections
  - Tests of FCal at STAR and with test beam at FermiLab
  - Proposal for installation



# Prior Experience with Forward Calorimetry

Left/right symmetric HCal

Trigger/DAQ electronics

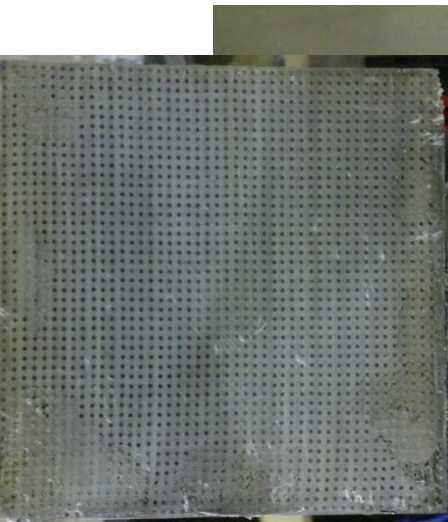
$A_N$  DY Setup at IP2 for 2011 RHIC Run

- This was a stage-1 test that could not have worked for forward DY
- The stage-1 test did measure forward jets
- There were not further stages

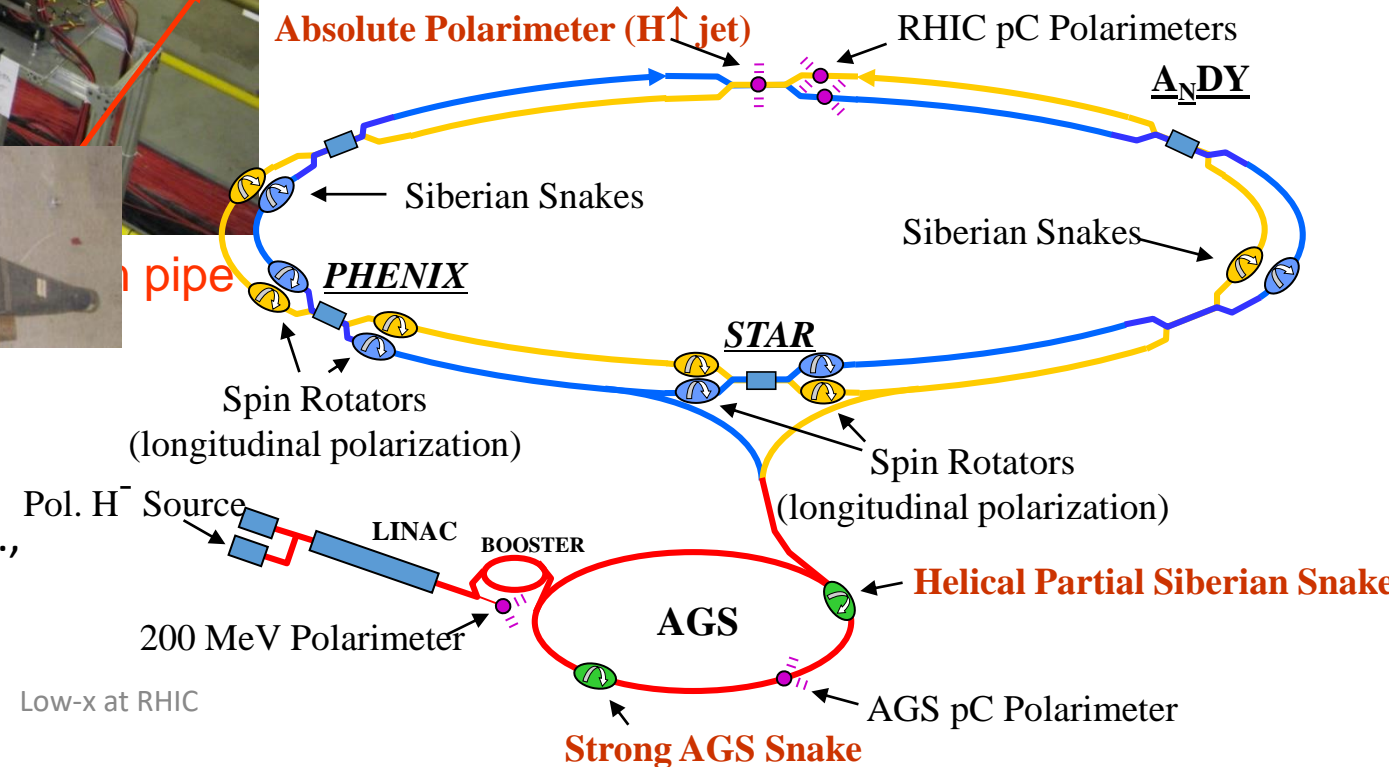
Left/right symmetric ECal

Blue-facing BBC

Left/right symmetric preshower



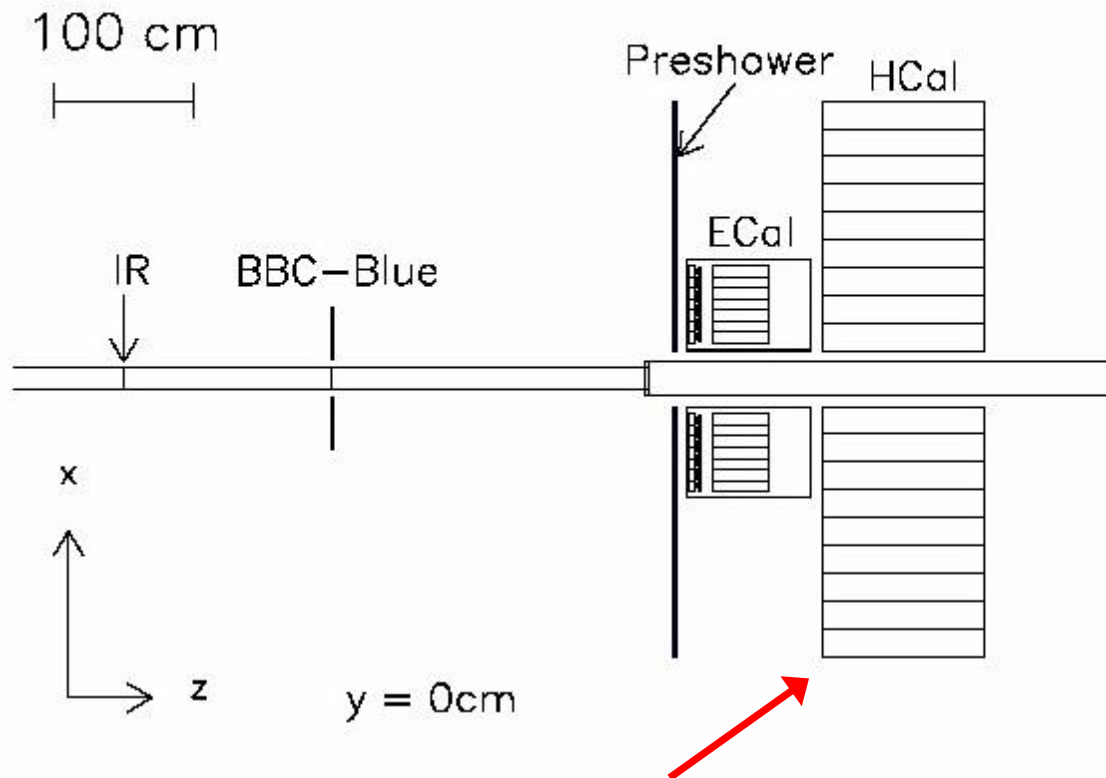
117-cm long x (10cm)<sup>2</sup> spaghetti calorimeter (SPACAL) built by AGS-E864 collaboration [Armstrong et al., NIM A406 (1998) 227.]



# $A_N$ DY Setup at IP2 for 2011 RHIC Run

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IP2/DY-Run11



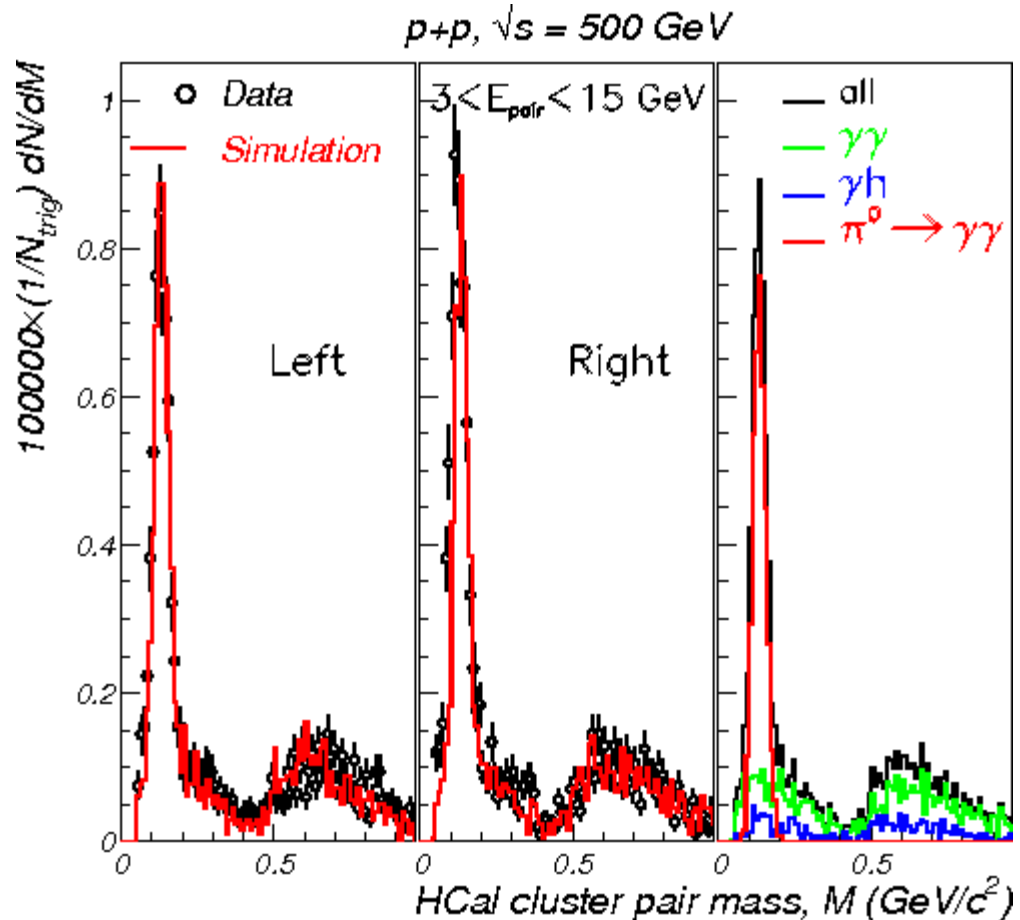
**2m x 1.2m forward calorimeter**  
**236 x  $(10\text{cm})^2$  x 117-cm cells**

- Beam-beam counter (BBC) for minimum-bias trigger and luminosity measurement (from PHOBOS [NIM A474 (2001) 38])
- Zero-degree calorimeter and shower maximum detector for luminosity measurement and local polarimetry (ZDC/ZDC-SMD, not shown)
- Hadron calorimeter (HCal) are L/R symmetric modules of  $9 \times 12$  lead-scintillating fiber cells,  $(10\text{cm})^2 \times 117\text{cm}$  (from AGS-E864 [NIM406(1998)227])
- Small ECal -  $7 \times 7$  matrices of lead glass cells,  $(4\text{cm})^2 \times 40\text{cm}$  (loaned from BigCal at JLab)
- Preshower detector - two planes, 2.5 & 10 cm
- In 2012, modular calorimeters were replaced by an annular calorimeter with  $(20\text{cm})^2$  hole for beams

# Calibrations-I

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Electromagnetic Response / Calibrate via  $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$



- Cosmic-ray muons were used to adjust relative gains in advance of collisions (see backup)
- The primary determination of the energy scale was from reconstruction of  $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  from single-tower cluster pairs. The maximum energy for this calibration was limited by photon merging into the coarse  $(10 \text{ cm})^2$  towers. [See below for pixelization results from this same calorimeter]
- Full PYTHIA/GEANT simulation agrees with data, for both the pair-mass resolution of the calorimeter, as well as the neutral pion reconstruction efficiency.
- Subsequent test-beam studies at FNAL [T1064] are consistent with an excellent response of this calorimeter to incident photons and electrons.

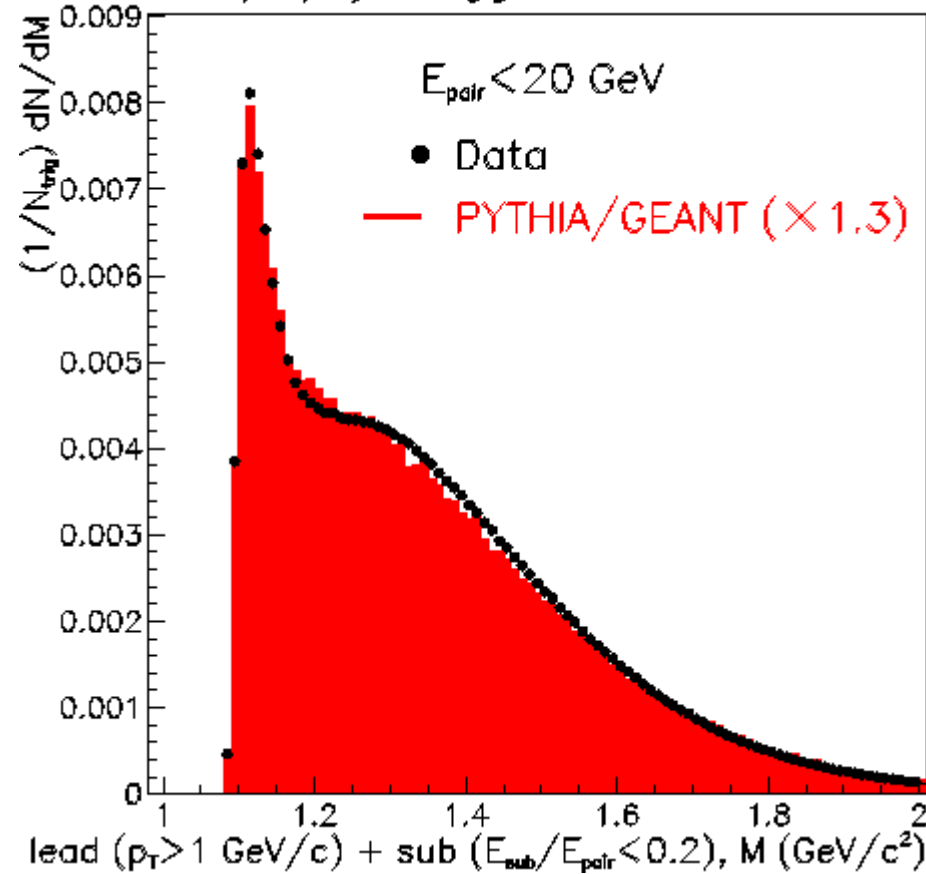
# Calibrations-II

arXiv:1308.4705

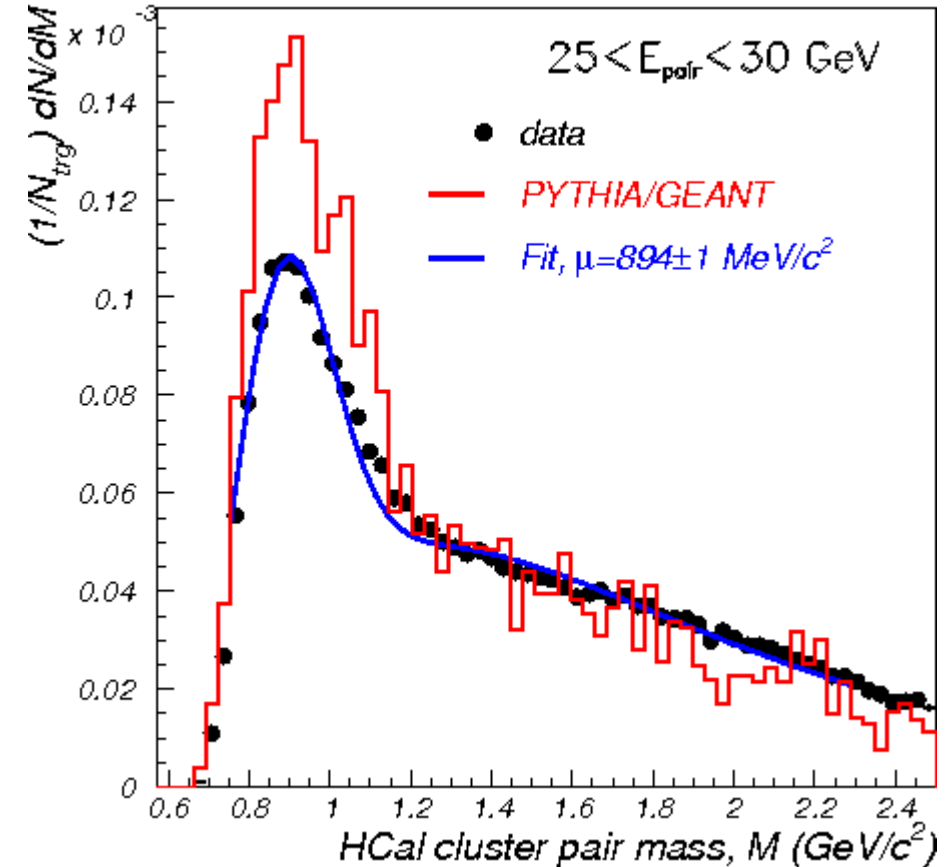
Hadronic Reponse

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p+p, jet trigger,  $\sqrt{s}=510$  GeV



p+p,  $\sqrt{s}=510$  GeV

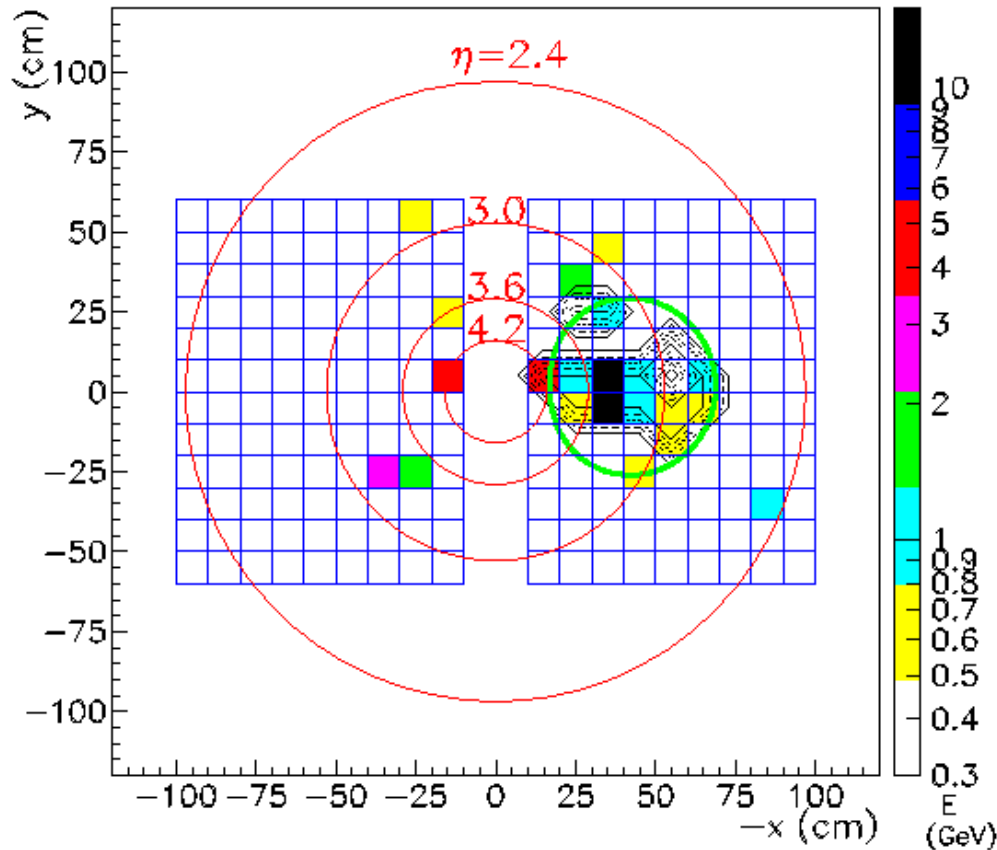


- Use BBC detector to tag HCal clusters made by incident charged hadrons. Mass assignments are then made.
- Tagged cluster-pair mass distributions are consistent with  $\Lambda \rightarrow \pi^- p$  (left) and  $K^*(892) \rightarrow \pi^+ K^-$  (right) and charge conjugates
- Use  $E = 1.12E' - 0.1$  GeV for jet finding from an event list of tower energies that use the photon calibration ( $E'$ )

# Jet Reconstruction – Anti- $k_T$ Jet Finder

Trigger on HCal masked ADC Sum in L/R Modules  
Display anti- $k_T$  jet clusters satisfying acceptance cuts

Run=12107004.001, trig=Jet, Event=15, mod=2, anti- $k_T$



## • Anti- $k_T$ Jet Finder Procedure :

- Iteratively **merge pairs of towers** until towers cease to satisfy distance criteria
  - **No Seed**
  - Towers can be outside trigger region
- Distance Criteria (clusters  $j, k$ ) :
  - $d_{jk} = \min(k_{Tj}^{-2}, k_{Tk}^{-2})(R_{jk}^2/R^2)$
  - $R_{jk}^2 = (\eta_j - \eta_k)^2 + (\Phi_j - \Phi_k)^2$
  - If  $d_{jk} < k_{Tj}^{-2}$  then merge clusters  $j, k$
- Use cone with  $R_{jet} = 0.7$  in  $\eta$ - $\Phi$  space but cluster **towers can fall outside of cone**
- Impose **acceptance cuts** to accept/reject jet:
 
$$|\eta_j - 3.25| < 0.25$$

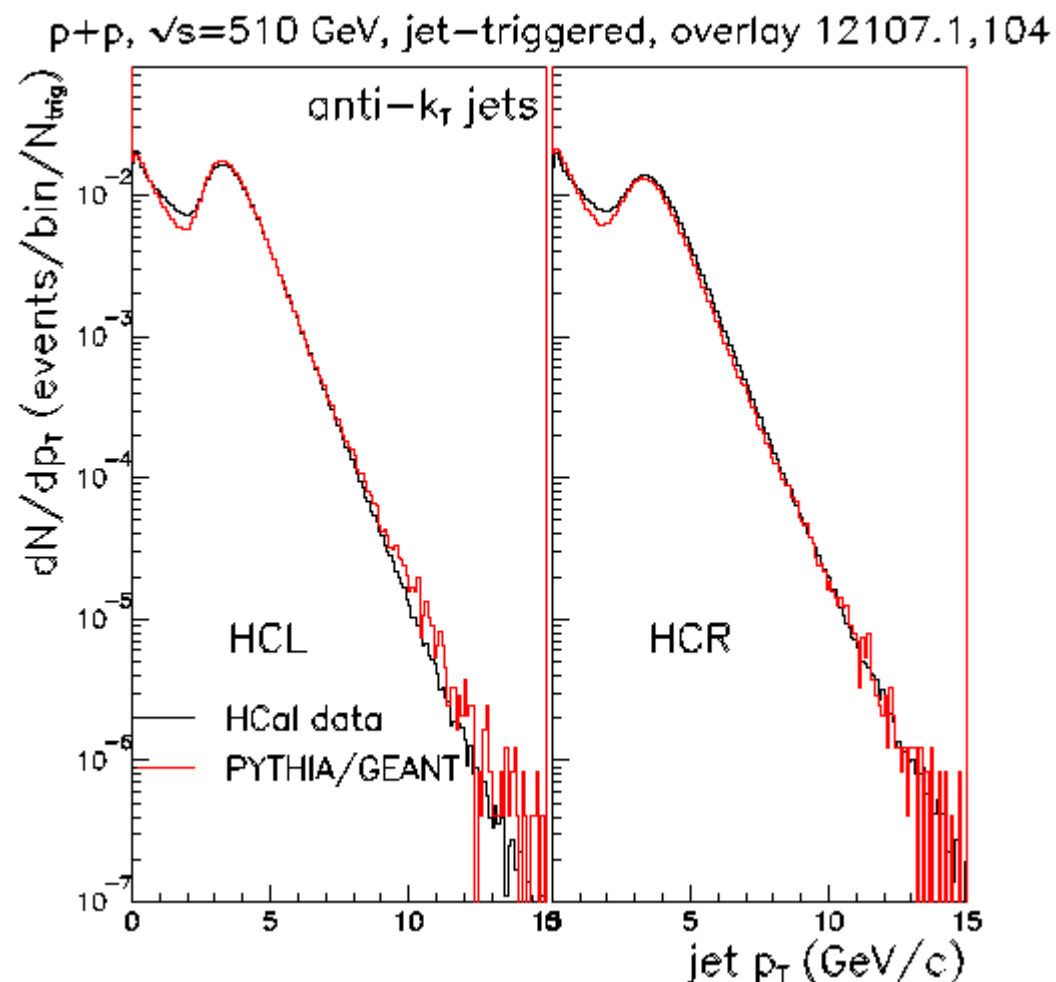
$$|\Phi_j - \Phi^{Off}| < 0.50$$

where  $\Phi^{Off} = 0$  for HCL  
 $\Phi^{Off} = \pi$  for HCR
- Energy Cut :  $E_{jet} > 30 \text{ GeV}$
- Algorithm : arXiv : 0802.1189  
 arxiv : 1209.1785

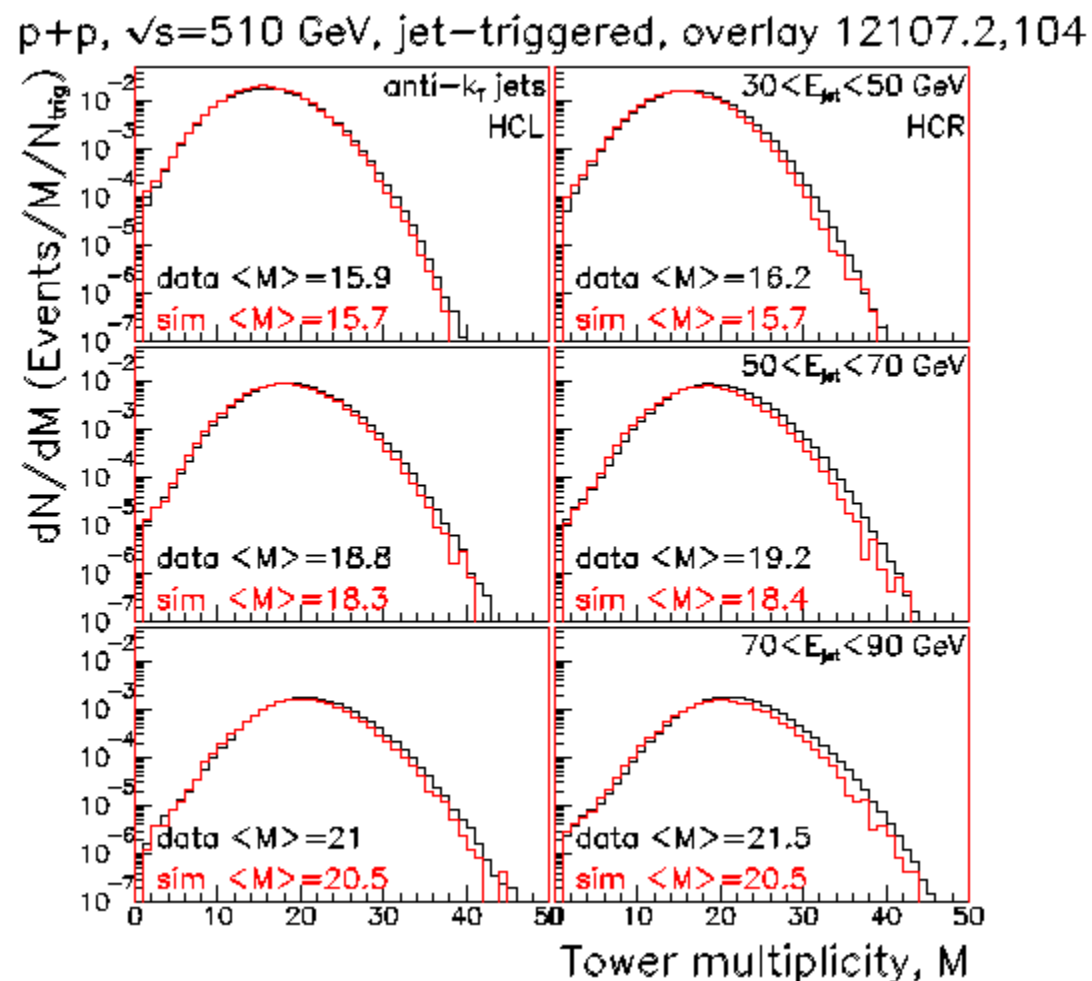
Events look “jetty” / Results with anti- $k_T$  algorithm similar to midpoint cone algorithm



# Comparison of Data to PYTHIA 6.222/GEANT Simulation



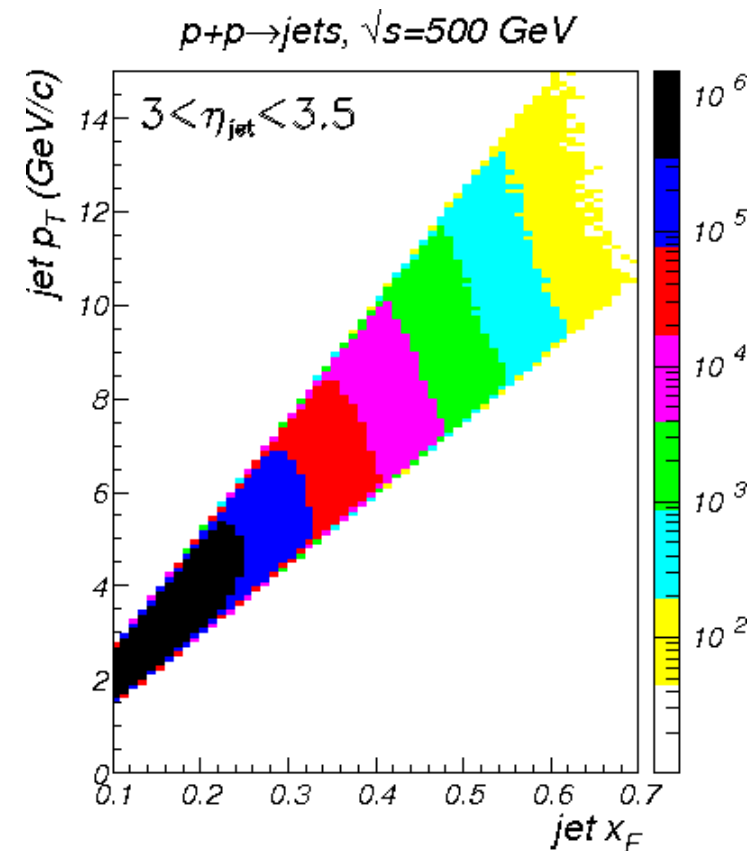
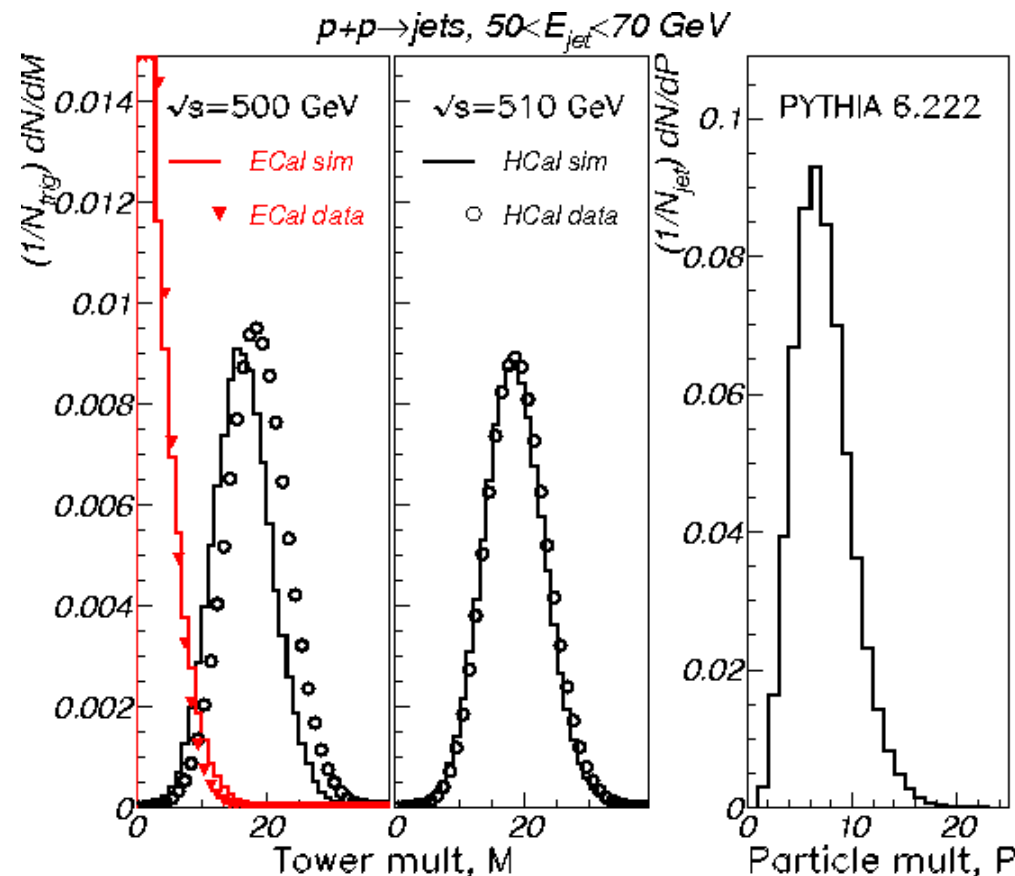
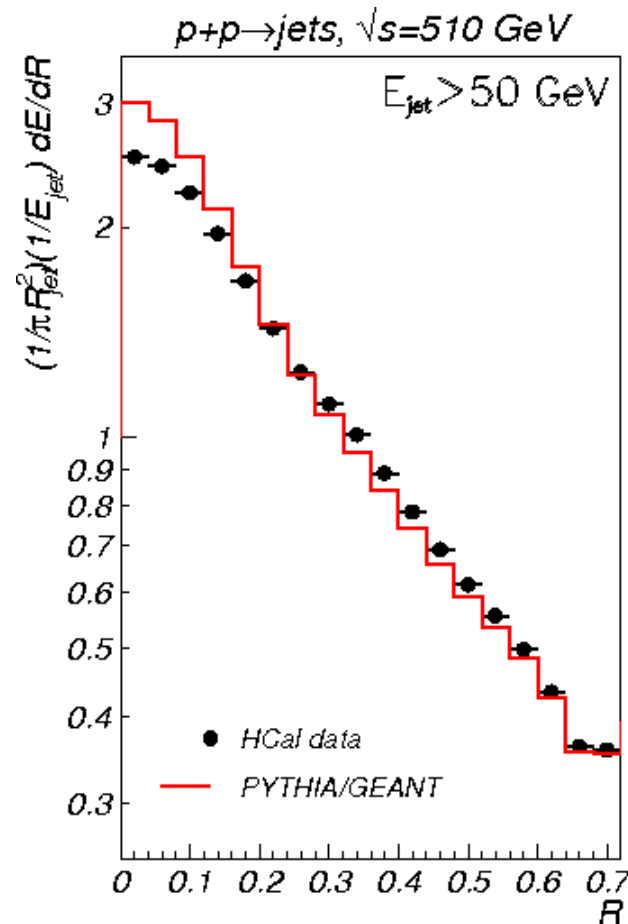
Uncorrected  $p_T$  distribution of anti-kT clusters



Uncorrected multiplicity of towers in anti-kT cluster

Good description of data by simulation → use simulation for efficiency correction

# What is a forward jet?



Event averaged jet shape: how the energy is distributed a distance  $R$  in  $\eta, \phi$  from the thrust axis

⇒ the anti- $k_T$  clusters have shapes similar to midrapidity jets

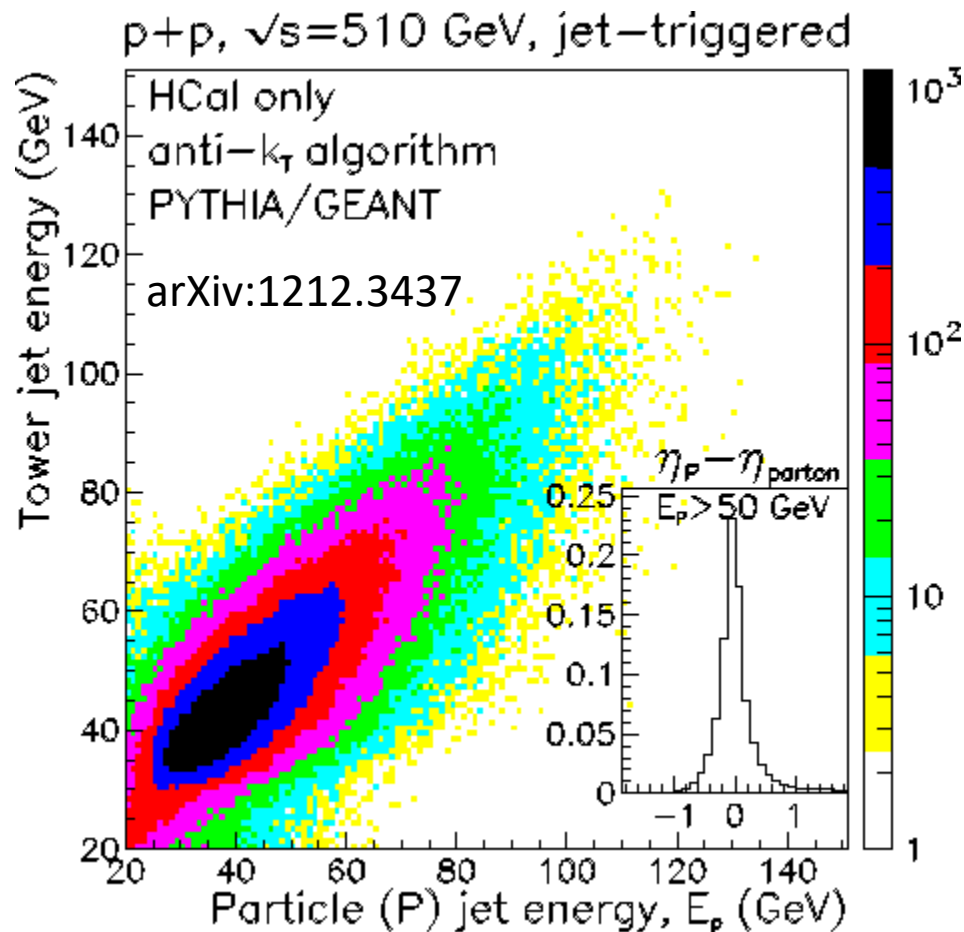
(left) tower multiplicities, as used for  $A_N$ ;  
 (middle) tower multiplicities, as used for  $\sigma$ ;  
 (right) incident particle multiplicity from simulation

⇒ multiplicity similar to jets of comparable scale

Acceptance of contained jets from particles with  $2.4 < \eta < 4.2$  correlates  $x_F$  and  $p_T$  for the jet cluster



# Jet Energy Scale - I

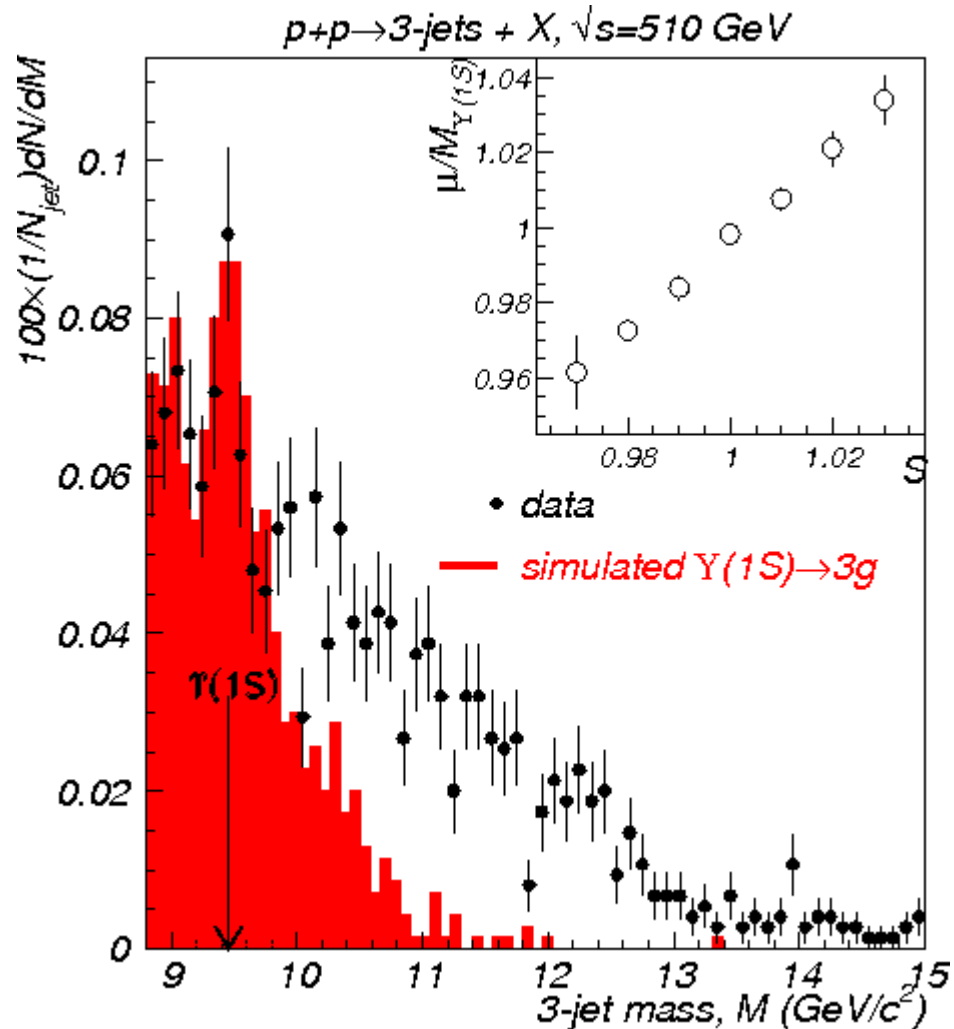


- Simulations confirm energy scale of jets, by comparison of “tower” jets [with full detector response] to “particle” jets [excluding detector response].
- Reconstructed jets are directionally matched to hard-scattered partons as generated by PYTHIA

Correlation between tower jet [from PYTHIA/GEANT] to particle jet [from PYTHIA]. The inset shows the  $\eta$  component of the directional match ( $\Delta\eta$ ) between particle jets and a hard-scattered parton, whose direction is defined by  $\eta_{\text{parton}}, \phi_{\text{parton}}$ . There is a 82% match requiring  $|\Delta\eta|, |\Delta\phi| < 0.8$

# Jet Energy Scale - II

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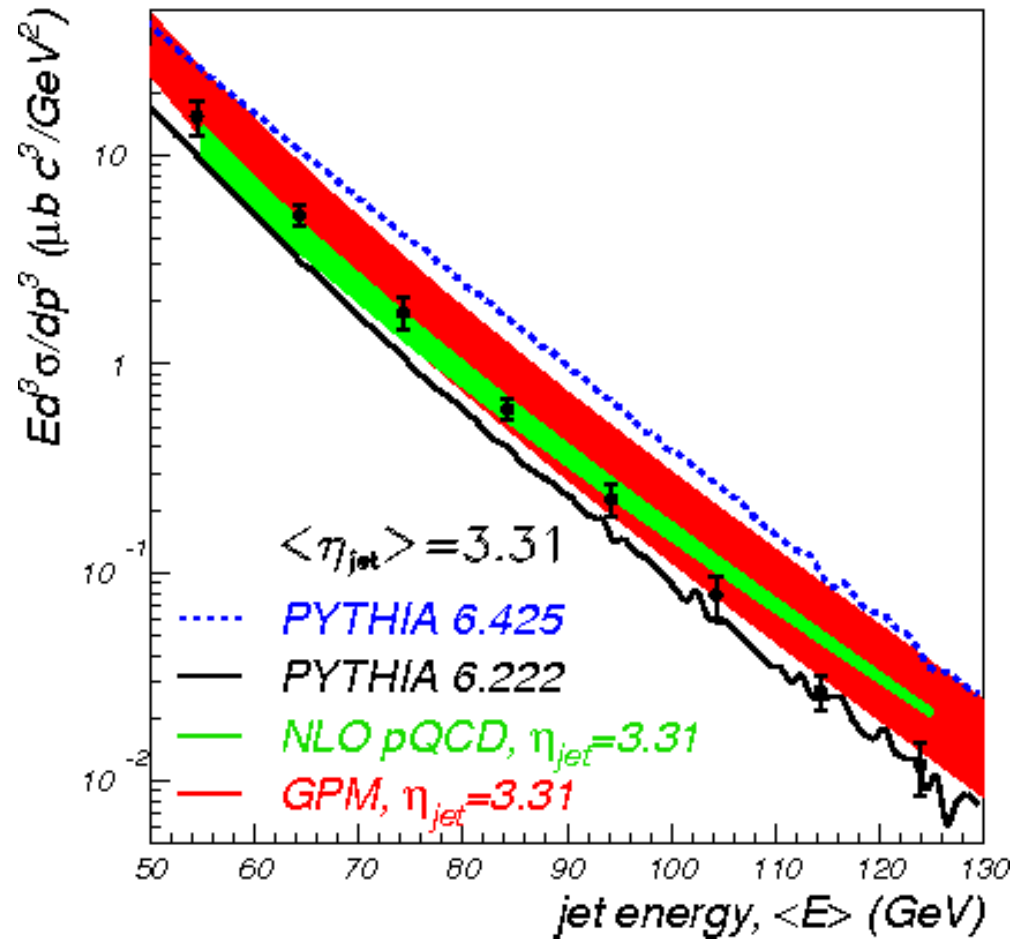


- Test jet energy scale by reconstruction of invariant mass for multi-jet events
- Observe  $3.5\sigma$  statistical significance peak, attributed to  $\Upsilon(1S) \rightarrow 3g$ . The red overlay is a simulation of the signal from the PYONIA generator of  $\Upsilon(1S) \rightarrow 3g$ , run through GEANT, and then reconstructed as done for the data
- For the inset,  $S$  rescales the energy calibrations, so tests the jet-energy scale.
- Peaks are also observed in 2-jet mass attributed to  $\chi_{2b} \rightarrow 2$  gluons. Peaks in  $N$ -jet events require large multiplicity [ $\Sigma Q$  from beam-beam counter]  $\sim 7$  units of rapidity away from dijet [aXiv:1308.4705]

# Forward Jet Cross Sections

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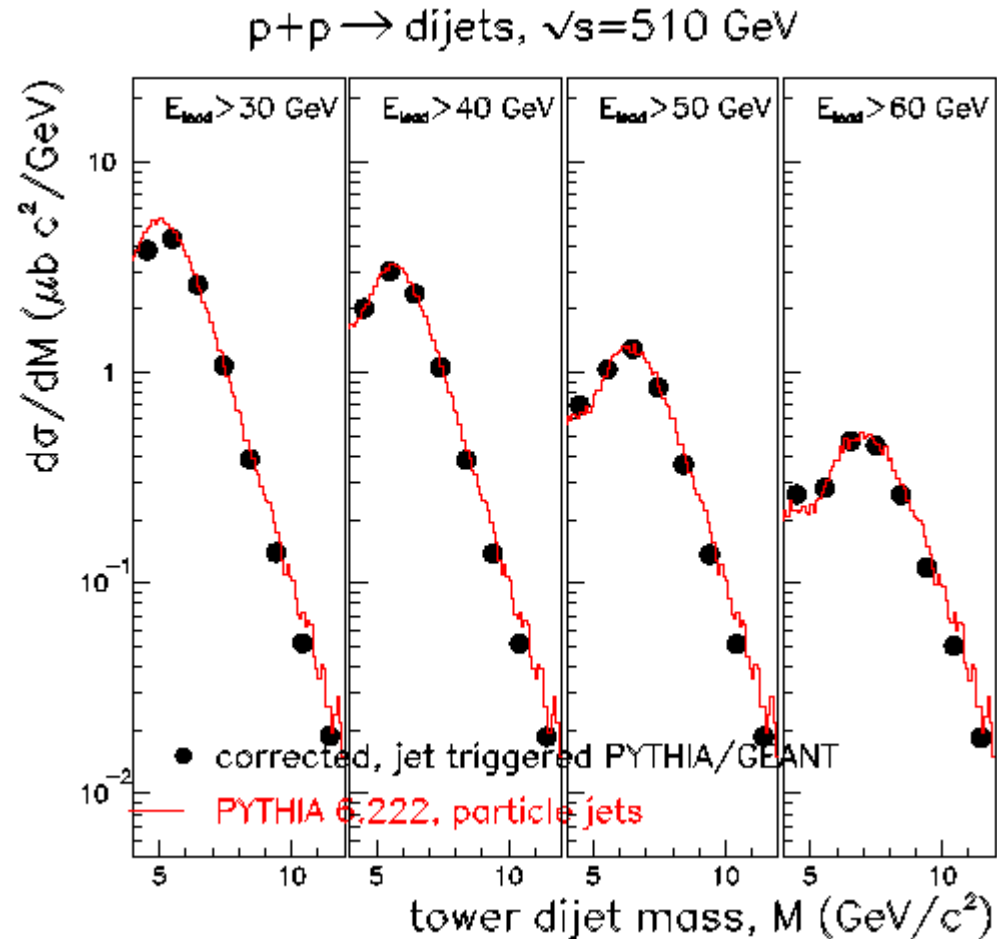
$p+p \rightarrow \text{jets}, \sqrt{s}=510 \text{ GeV}$



- Uncertainties include both statistical and systematic estimates [as described in backup]
- Strong dependence on both  $x_F$  and  $p_T$  requires data/theory comparisons at  $\langle \eta_{\text{jet}} \rangle$
- NLO pQCD [PRD 86 (2012) 094009] calculation provides a good description of the data using CTEQ6.6M PDF. Note the small scale dependence [band represents range of scale from  $\mu=2p_T$  to  $\mu=p_T/2$ ]
- Leading-order pQCD model calculation assuming factorization in the use of  $k_T$  dependent distribution functions [generalized parton model (GPM), PRD 88 (2013) 054023] also describes the data. The larger scale dependence is likely a consequence of a leading-order calculation
- Particle jet reconstructions [no detector effects beyond acceptance] with the anti- $k_T$  algorithm with  $R_{\text{jet}}=0.7$  are used to compare default PYTHIA 6.222 [prior to tunings for the LHC] and PYTHIA 6.425 [“Field tune A’’] to data. PYTHIA 6.222 was previously found to describe forward  $\pi^0$  production at  $\sqrt{s}=200 \text{ GeV}$  [arXiv:hep-ex/040312].

# Test of Dijet Corrections

Comparison of corrected PYTHIA/GEANT tower dijets to PYTHIA particle dijets

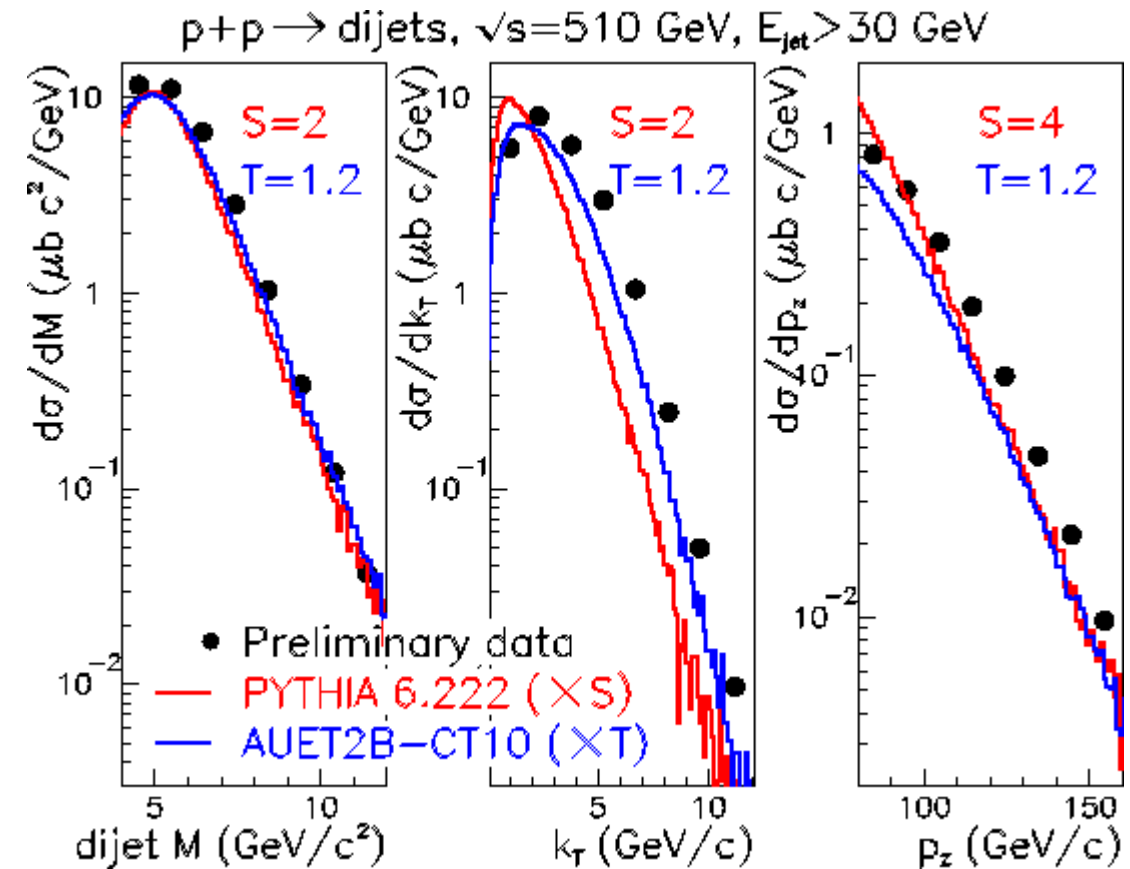
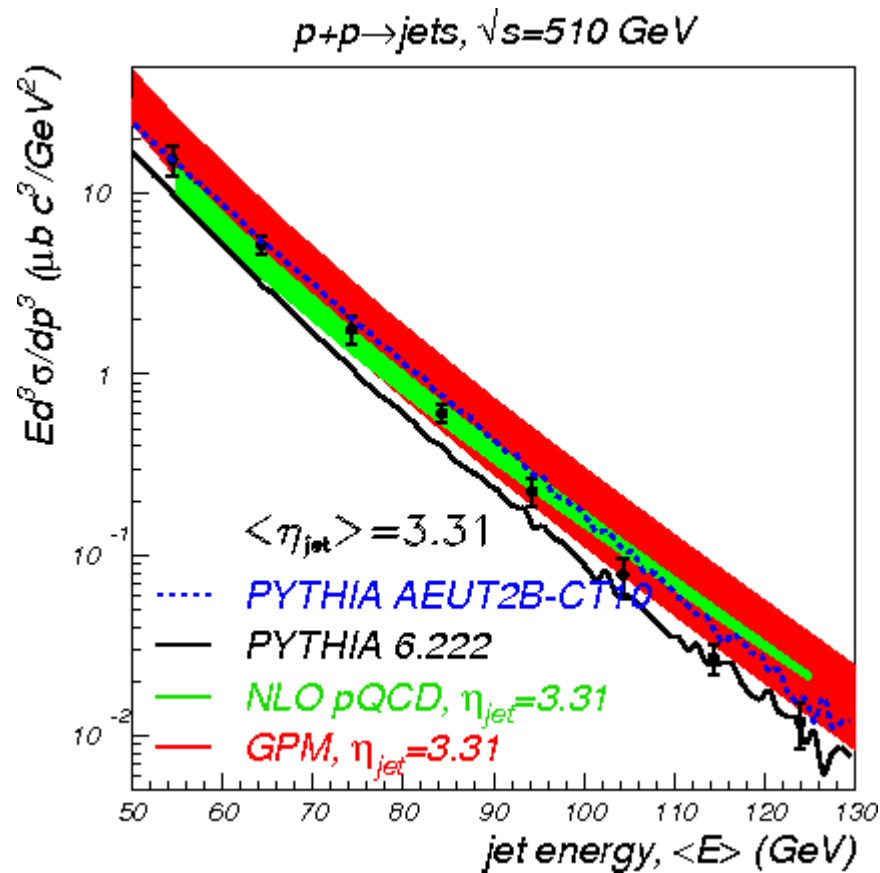


- It is found that the dijet  $\varepsilon_{\text{trig}}(V)$  [for  $V=M, k_T, p_z$ ] is the only correction required; i.e.,  $\varepsilon_{\text{det}}(V)=1$
- The dijet correction procedure when applied to PYTHIA/GEANT tower dijets reproduces the input PYTHIA particle dijets (animate for  $V=k_T$  and  $p_z$  distributions)
- Require  $M > 4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  when reporting  $d\sigma/dk_T$  and  $d\sigma/dp_z$ .

# PYTHIA Tunings

- The LHC high-energy program has prompted many retunings of PYTHIA, so that backgrounds in e.g. dijet mass are well modeled to allow new particle searches. See P.Z. Skands, PRD 82 (2010) 074018 [arXiv:1005.3457]
- PYTHIA tunings most commonly adjust initial-state and final-state showering parameters; multi-parton interaction model parameters; etc. As will be shown, inclusive forward jets and forward dijets from RHIC are sensitive to these tunings [as should be expected, since the rapidities involved for forward dijets at RHIC rival those from midrapidity at the LHC]
- In general, any serious low-x physics study of forward particle production will need to deal with the physics of parton showers and multi-parton interactions. It is not good to attempt to “correct” measurements for these effects. Experimental results should report what’s observed, rather than subtracting model-dependent quantities from what is measured [in my opinion...]

# Data versus Atlas [AUET2B with CTEQ10] Tune



- This is AUET2B-CT6L as developed by Atlas [arXiv:1512.00197 / PLB 756 (2016) 10], replacing the PDF by CTEQ10 [which differs from CTEQ6 for low-x gluons]
- Reasonable description of inclusive jet data
- ~20% overprediction of dijet data

# Extending Gluon Polarization Measurements to Low-x

- Installation of forward calorimetry that combines good electromagnetic and hadronic responses at STAR or PHENIX can allow measurement of  $A_{LL}$  for forward dijet production at  $\sqrt{s}=510$  GeV.
- Careful evaluations of global analyses [arXiv:1407.4176] leads to expectations that  $A_{LL} \sim 10^{-3}$  for forward dijets in p+p collisions at  $\sqrt{s}=510$  GeV, which can be measured with both statistical and systematic significance in a future RHIC run.
- The basic requirements to extend gluon polarization measurements to low-x are a well-understood forward jet detector, high-luminosity operation of RHIC with longitudinally polarized colliding protons, and good solutions to environmental issues

# Issues for Installation of Forward Calorimeter at STAR

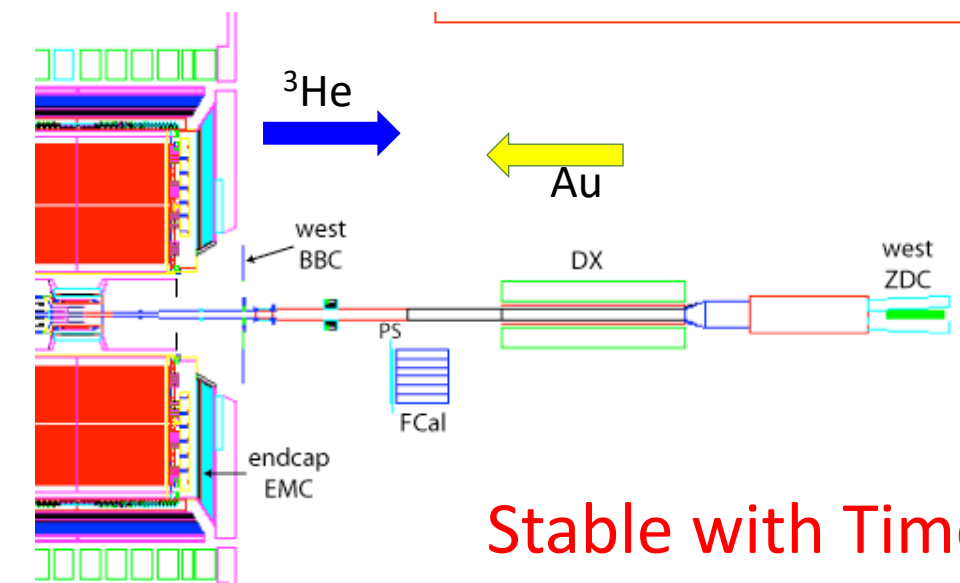
- 2-m hole in east and west poletips of STAR solenoid provides a window to forward physics
- The 0.5-T central field in the STAR solenoid produces large ( $\sim 0.01\text{T}$ ) longitudinal magnetic fields at the location of an FCal, typically parallel to desired locations of photosensors, thereby making it difficult to shield phototubes
- Radiation effects from high-luminosity RHIC operation can impact the calorimeter and/or the photosensors [e.g. silicon photomultipliers]

We have addressed these issues in tests at STAR in 2014 and 2016

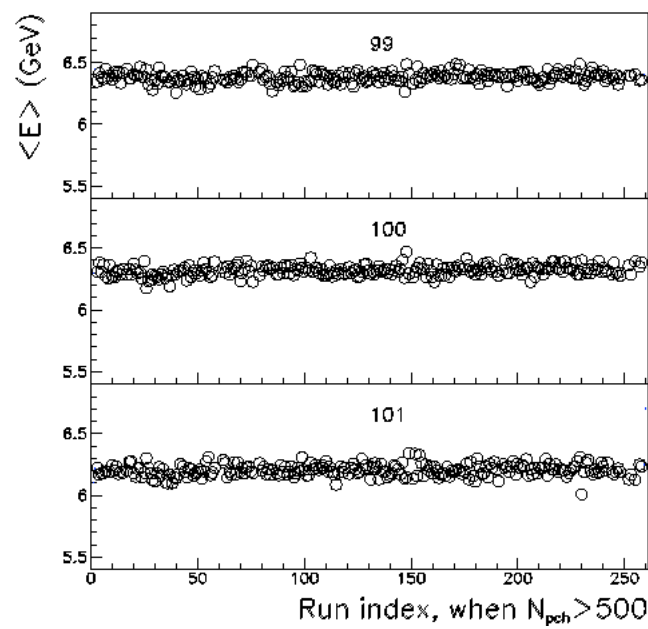
The proposed calorimeter has been tested at FermiLab in 2015



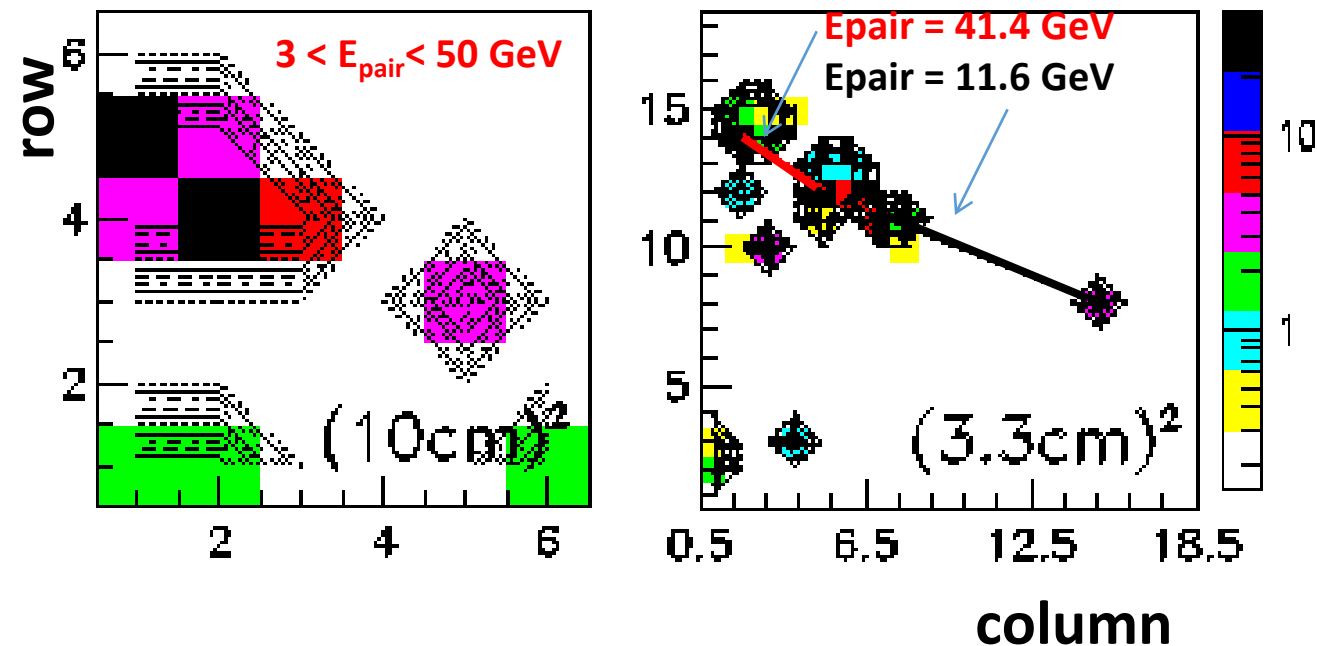
# Run14 Prototype FCal



Stable with Time

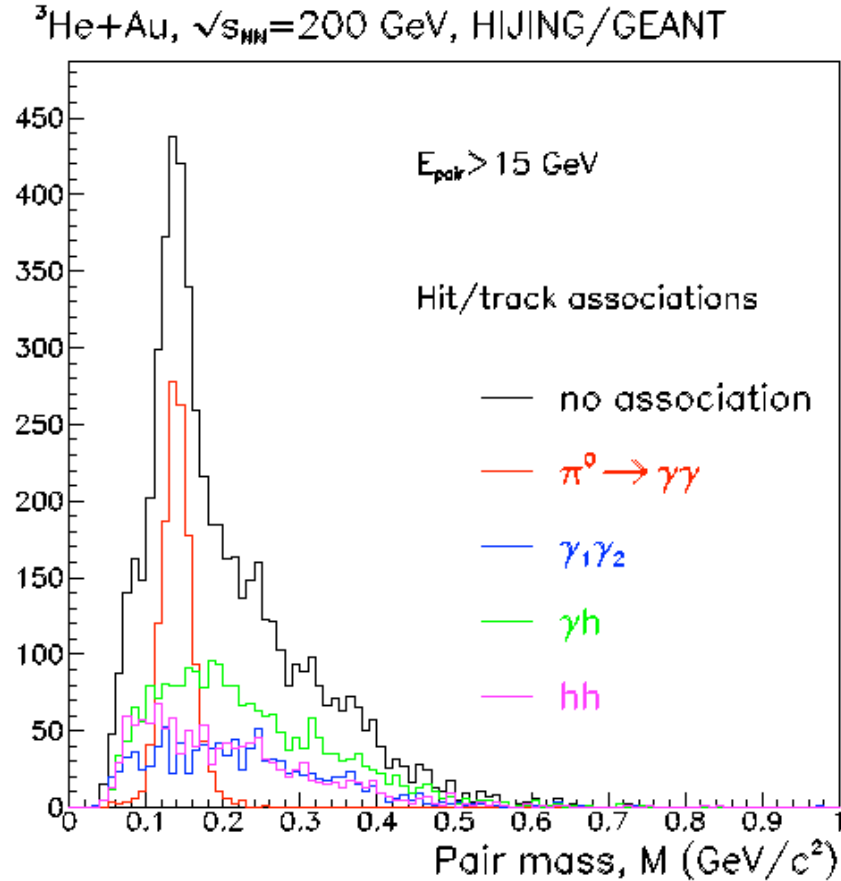
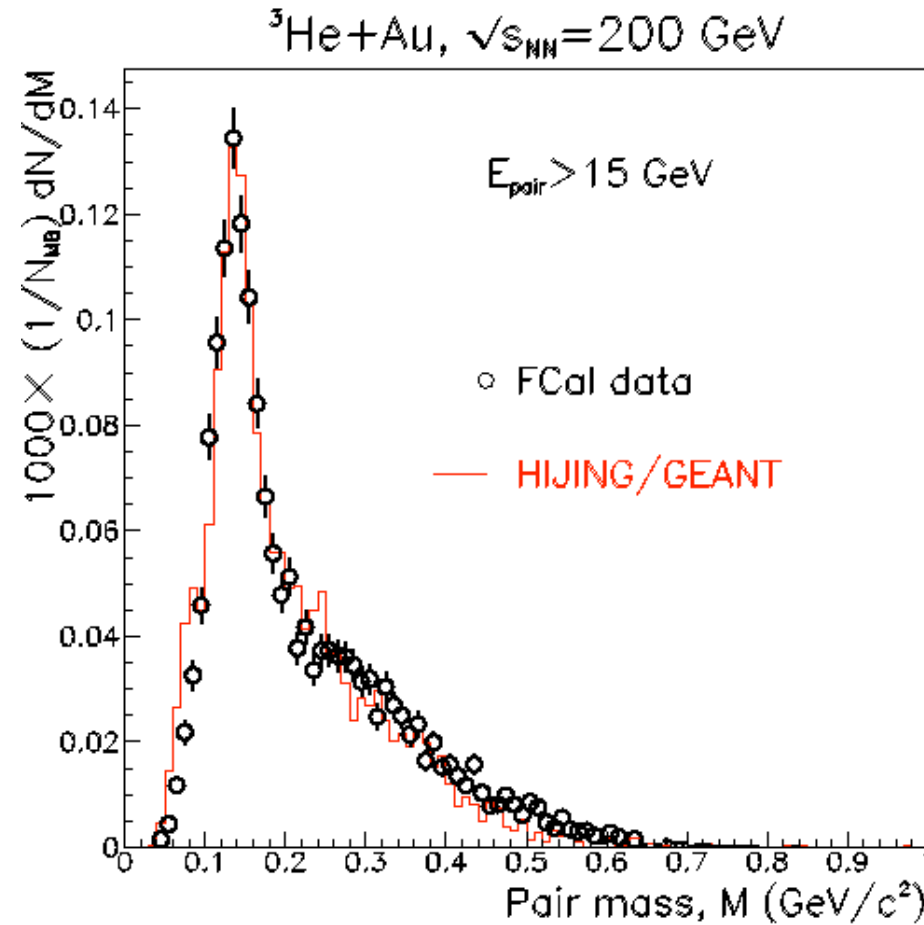


from  $(10\text{cm})^2$  cells to  $(3.3\text{cm})^2$  pixels



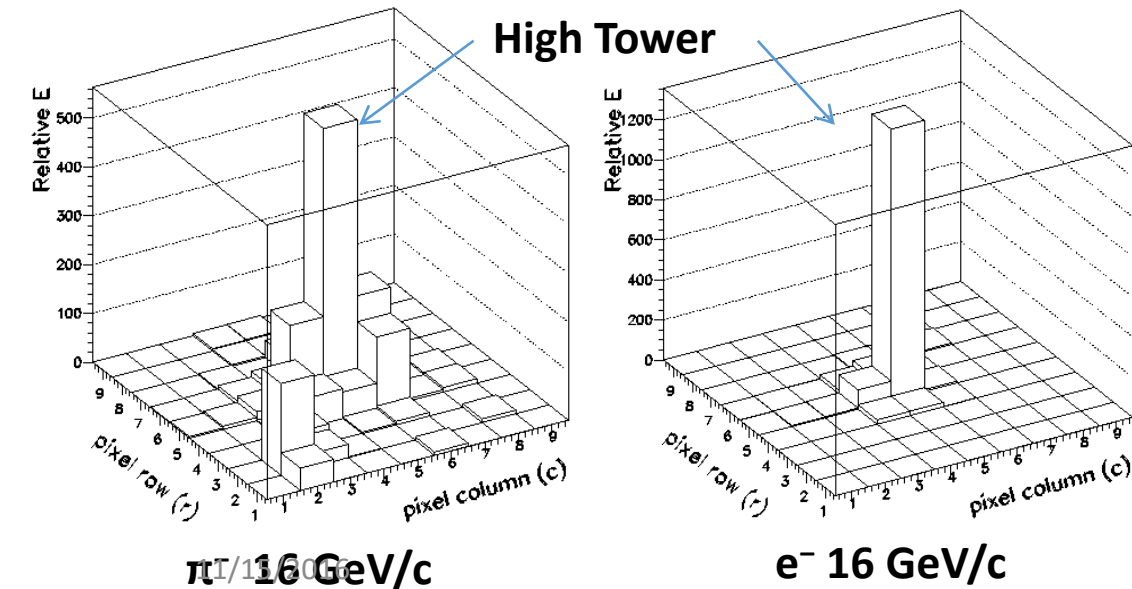
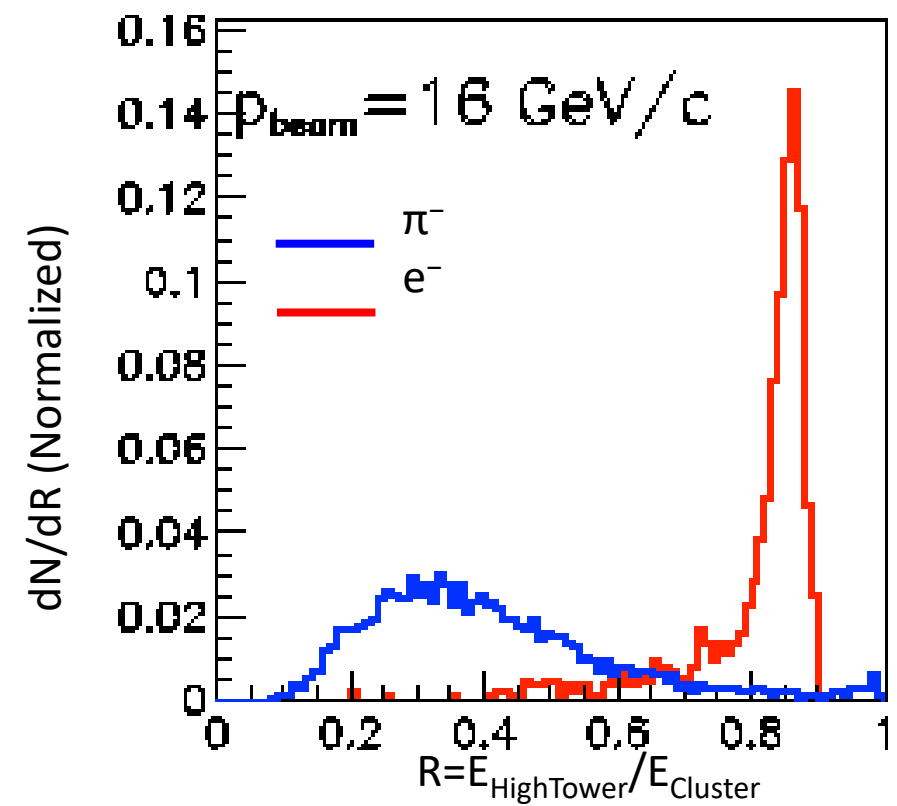
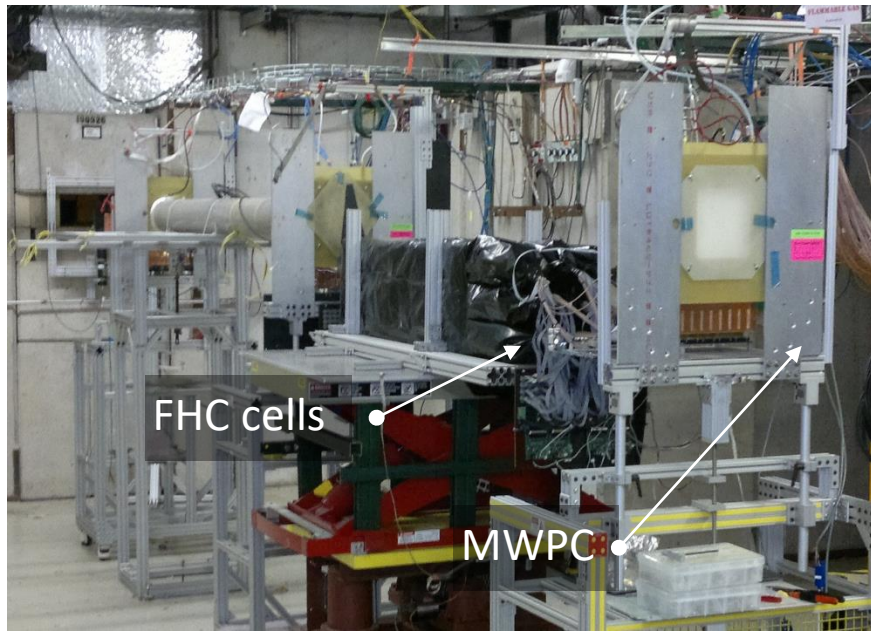
- Pixelizing 36 E864 cells into 324  $(3.3\text{cm})^2$  pixels allows reconstruction of neutral pions to higher energy up to  $\sim 50 \text{ GeV}$
- FCAL was stable through  $^3\text{He}+\text{Au}$  collision
- Radiation Hardness - no energy re-calibration required over duration of  $^3\text{He}+\text{Au}$  running

# Data vs. Simulation



- Hits/Clusters were identified using associated particles in simulation
- Dominant background is when one cluster is a photon and the other is a hadron
  - Can be effectively reduced by good pre-shower detector and additional e/h discrimination from FCal

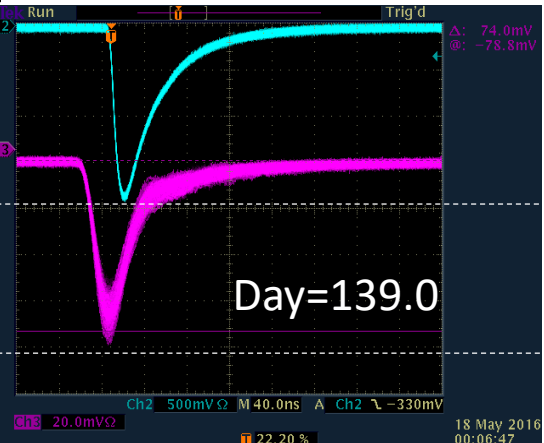
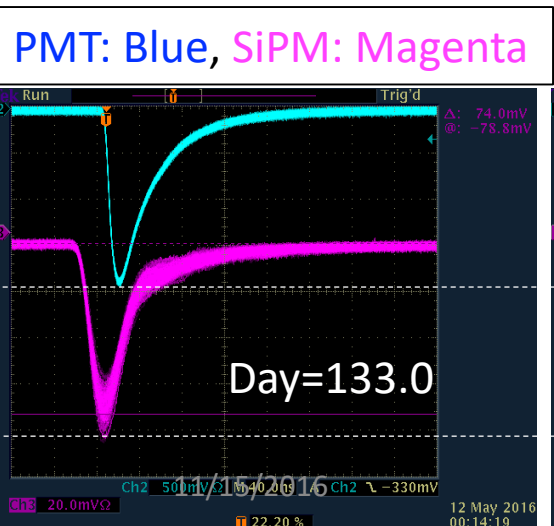
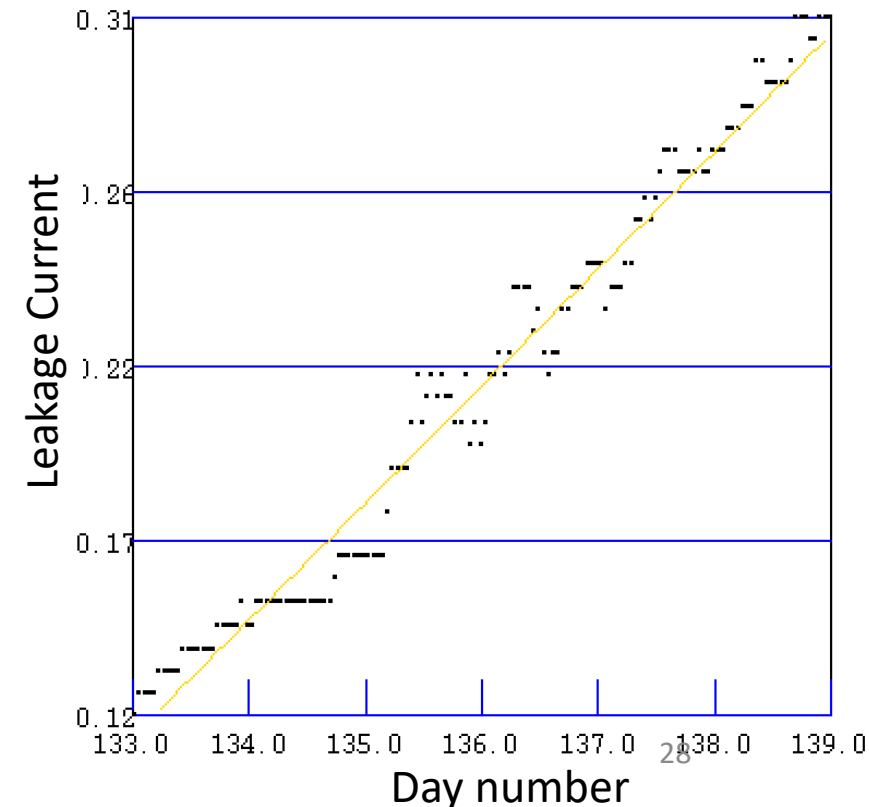
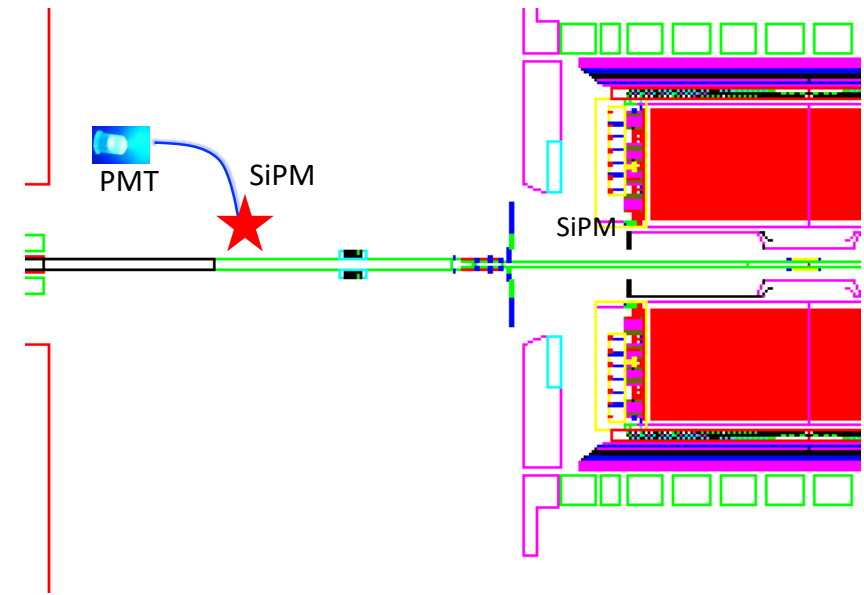
# FTBF Test Beam / T1064



- Shows clean separation between  $e^-$  &  $\pi^-$  shower shapes
- Hadronic shower shapes can be distinguished from EM showers with greater than 90% confidence

# SiPM Irradiation Tests - 2016

- No/minimum magnetic field effects and low cost compared to PMTs
  - But, can be subject to radiation effects
- SiPMs were illuminated by a pulsed (100Hz) blue LED light source
- Exposed to d+Au background radiation
- SiPM leakage current increases with time
- Loses gain with increasing leakage current
  - Impact FCAL stability over time



# Magnetic Field Test

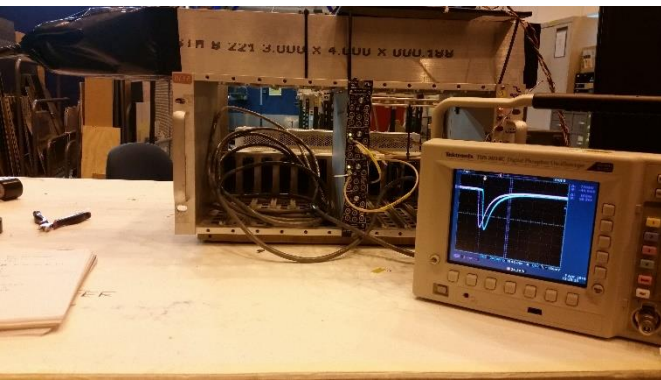
- Dominant fringe field from the STAR solenoid and DX magnet is  $B_z$
- Apparatus with PMT and flashing LED is placed at the east side of STAR
  - $4.1^\circ$  angle with respect to the z-axis
  - Monitored when STAR solenoid + RHIC DX magnet is excited, using network programmable oscilloscope

## XP2262 (2" diameter)

- Enough space 30-mil mu-metal
- Negligible gain shift

## XP2972 (1.125" diameter)

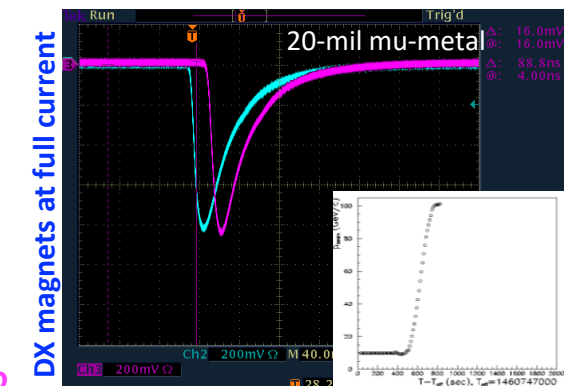
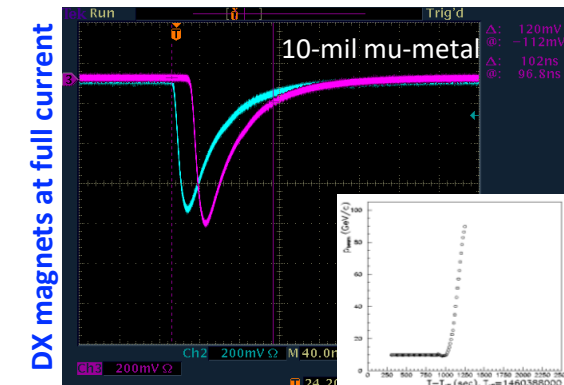
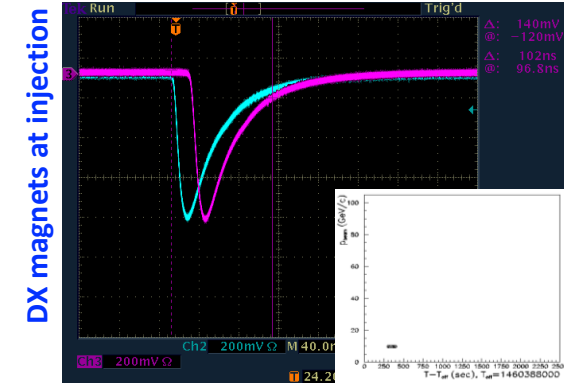
- 15% downward gain shift for 10-mil mu-metal
- Few percent gain shift for 20-mil mu-metal



Mu-metal: Ni-Fe magnetic alloy, shield static or low frequency magnetic field

Blue: XP2972  
Magenta: XP2262

## STAR magnet – Zero Field





# Magnetic Field Test

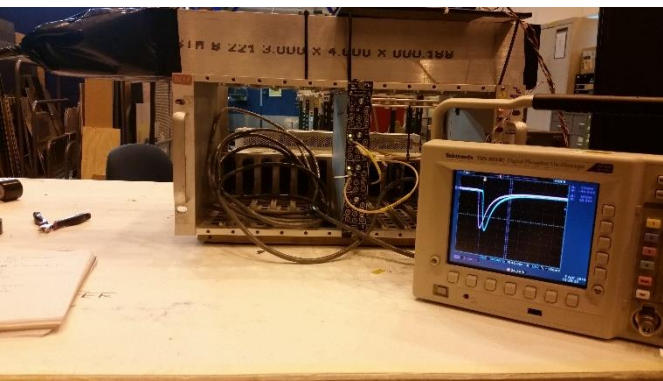
- Dominant fringe field from the STAR solenoid and DX magnet is  $B_z$
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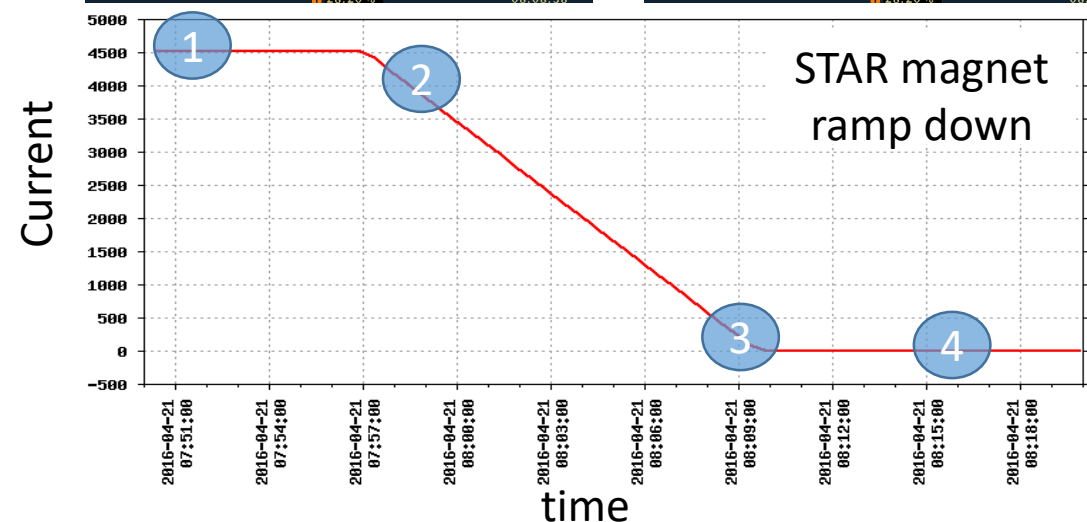
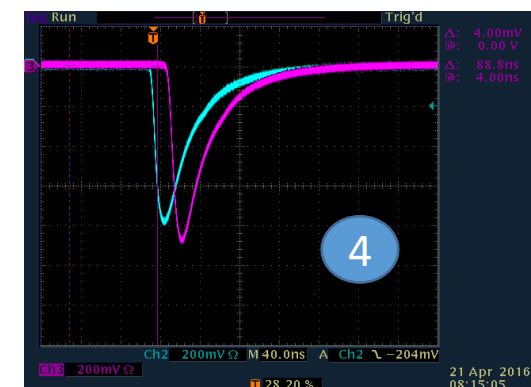
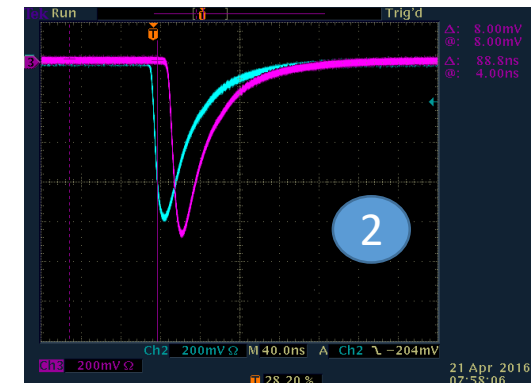
Mu-metal: Ni-Fe magnetic alloy, shield static or low frequency magnetic field

DX Magnet – Zero Field

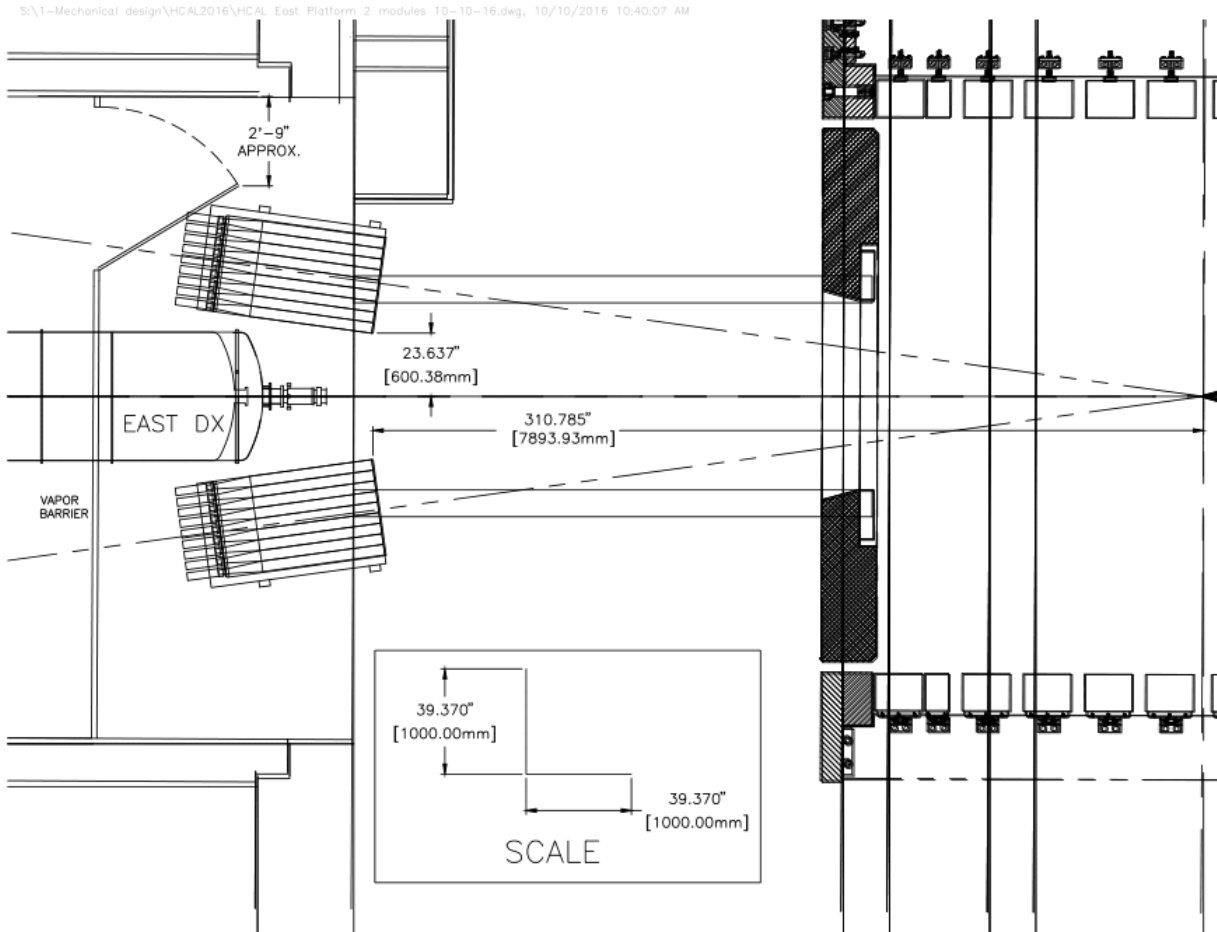


Blue: XP2972

Magenta: XP2262



$$2.7 < -\eta < 3.7$$



Drawing courtesy of John Scheblein

## Proposed Location for FCal

- Edge of east tunnel opening to wide angle hall
- No modifications to east support platform required
- FCal personnel will stack calorimeter in place. Only minimal technical help is required
- Existing rack on floor of wide angle hall to the south of the beam will be used  $\Rightarrow$  no electrician work required
- Existing cabling from IP2 effort will get used  $\Rightarrow$  minimal cost
- It is required to move the vapor barrier further to the east to make room for FCal

# Who is involved?

- Lehigh University – Rosi Reed, Prashanth Shanmuganathan, Daniel Brown, Justin Ewigleben
- Temple University – Bernd Surrow, Matt Posik
- Berkeley – Hank Crawford, Jack Engelage, Chris Perkins, Eleanor Judd
- IHEP, Protvino – Larisa Nogach
- Brookhaven – Les Bland

Others welcomed! This is a great hands-on project for students.



Temple/Lehigh FCal meeting at Temple University on 11 August 2016



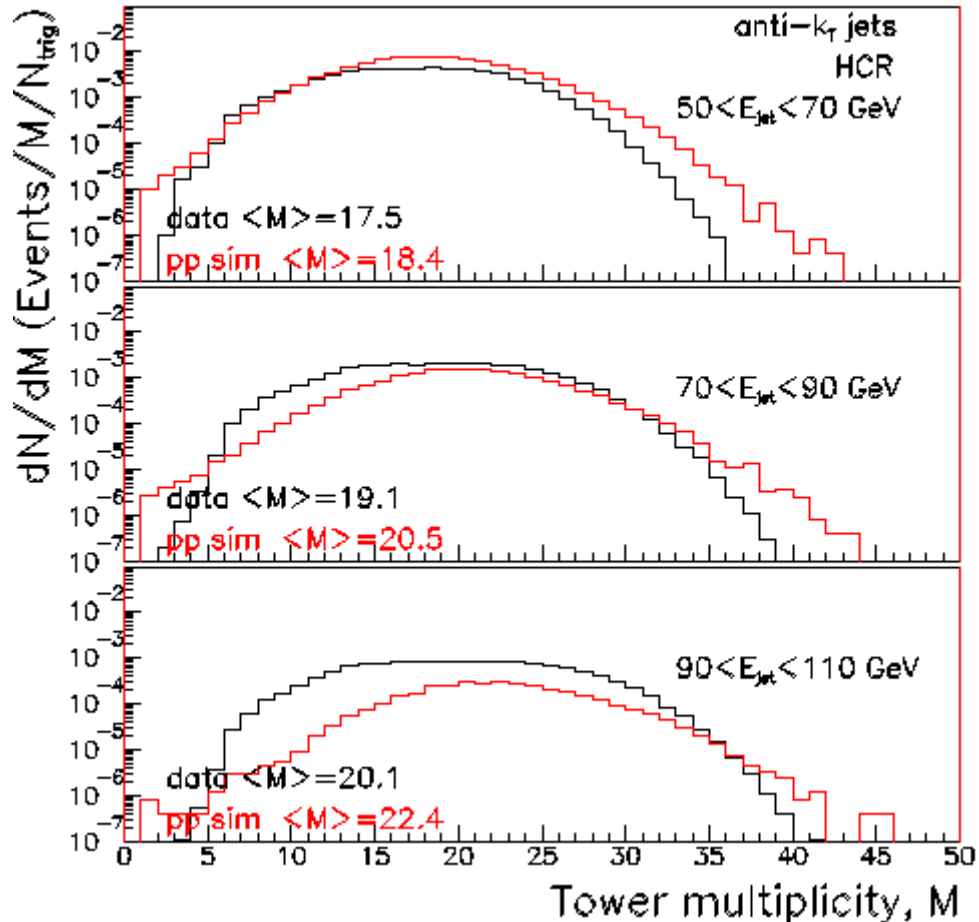
# Broad Impact of Improved Forward Instrumentation

⇒ applications in (light) heavy-ion collisions

# Forward Jets and Dijets in Cu+Au at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$ GeV

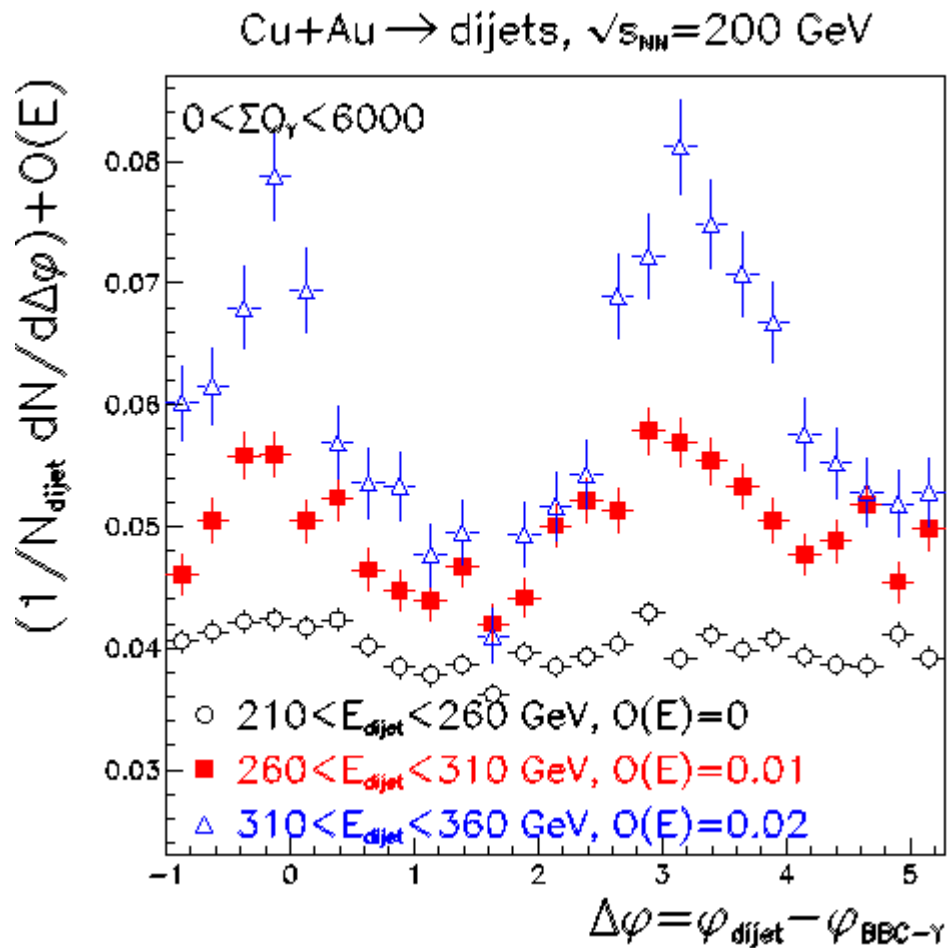
$$3.0 < \eta_{\text{jet}} < 3.5$$

CuAu,  $\sqrt{s}=200$  GeV, jet-triggered, overlay 12173.2,1



- The jet finder is applied to a small sample of Cu+Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$  GeV, selecting peripheral collisions. Jet tower multiplicities are similar to p+p jets of the same energy
- Jets and dijets are in the Cu beam direction
- Inclusive jets in Cu+Au collisions extend beyond 100 GeV, which exceeds Feynman-x scaling limits for N+N collisions  $\Rightarrow$  analogous to radial flow? and/or particle production from collective nuclear effects?

# Forward Jets and Dijets in Cu+Au at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$ GeV

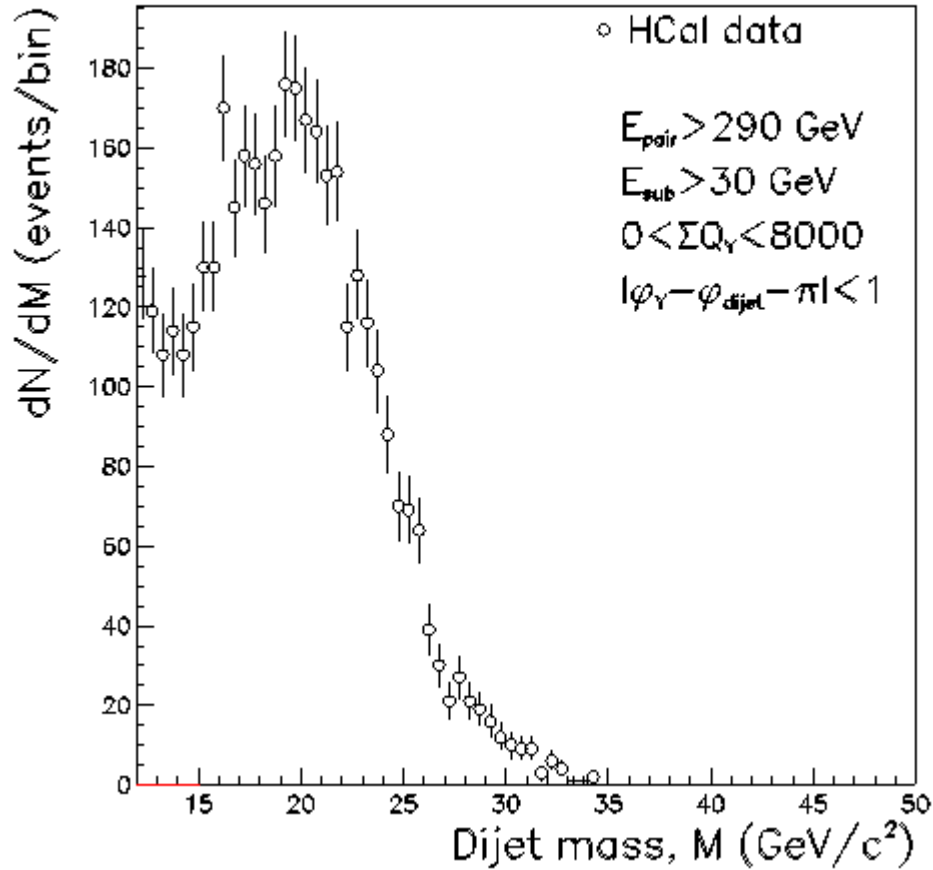


- The jet finder is applied to a small sample of Cu+Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$  GeV selecting peripheral collisions. Jet tower multiplicities are similar to p+p jets of the same energy
- Jets and dijets are in Cu beam direction
- Inclusive jets in Cu+Au collisions extend beyond 100 GeV, which exceeds Feynman-x scaling limits for N+N collision
- Forward dijets in Cu+Au collisions have strong azimuthal correlations with particles 7 units of rapidity away [analogous to CMS results (JHEP 09 (2010) 91)], as measured via total charge in beam-beam counter annulus facing Au beam
- With FCal at STAR the rapidity interval from  $-1 < \eta < +4$  can be examined for a near-side ridge
- Long-range rapidity correlations can be explored between a forward jet at  $\eta \sim -3.5$  and reconstructed neutral pions at  $\eta \sim +3.5$

$O(E)$  offsets the azimuthal correlation for each  $E_{\text{dijet}}$  bin

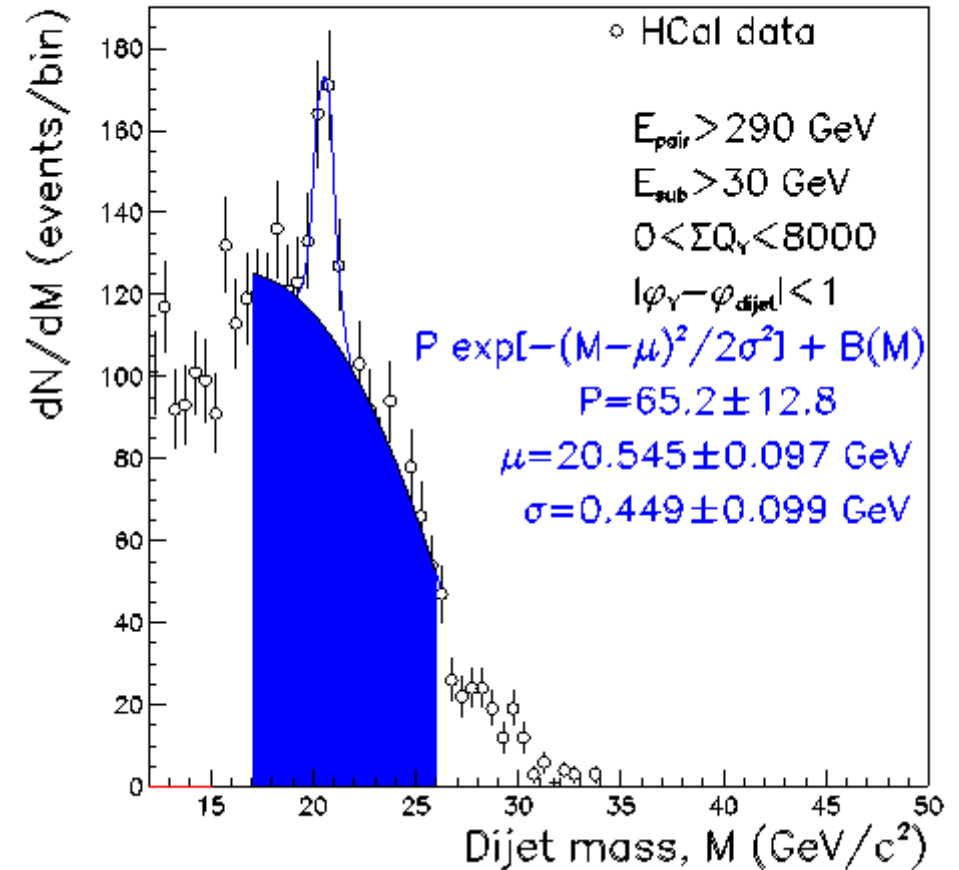
# Dijet Mass in Cu+Au at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$ GeV

Cu+Au  $\rightarrow$  dijets+X,  $\sqrt{s}=200$  GeV, all triggers



Dijet mass [assuming zero mass jets] for away-side azimuthal correlation peak

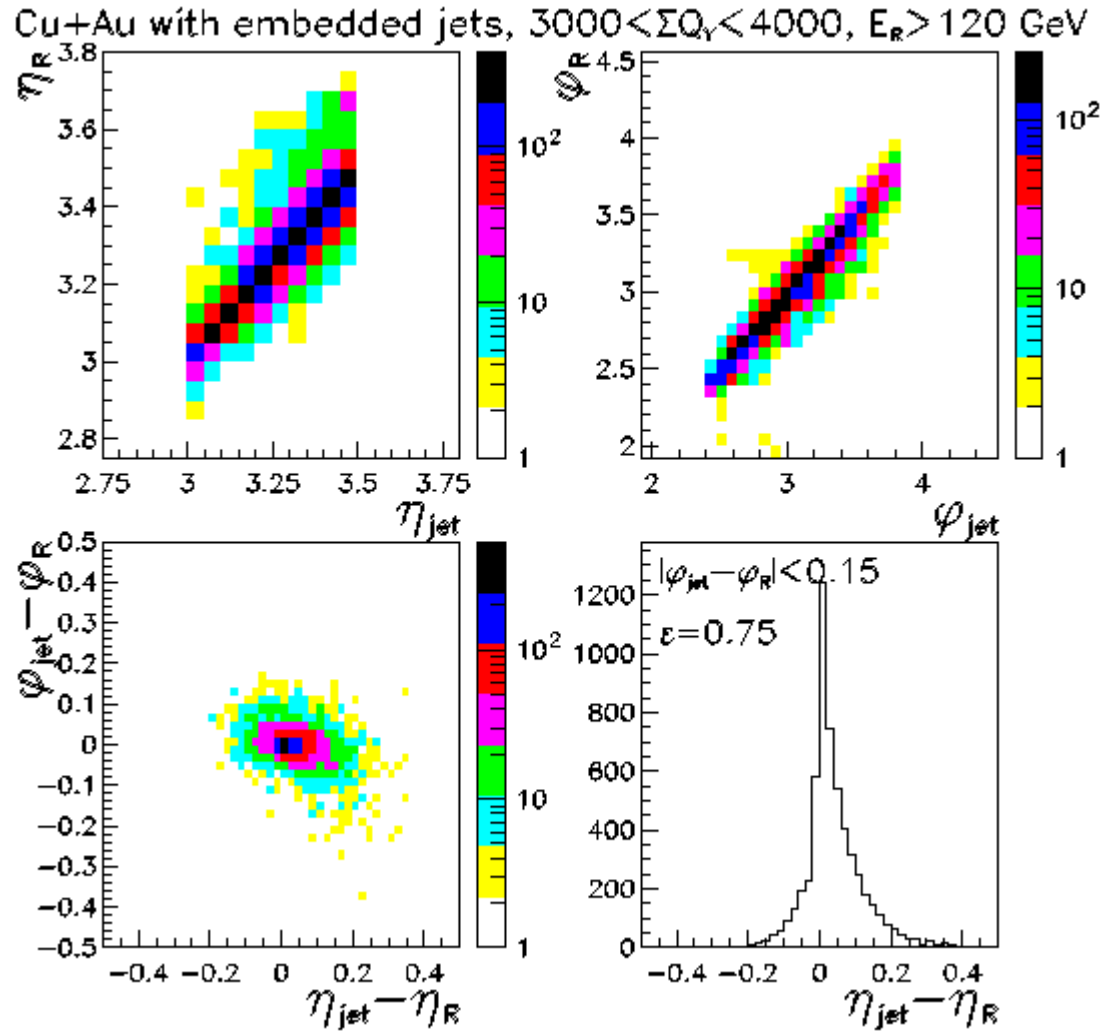
Cu+Au  $\rightarrow$  dijets+X,  $\sqrt{s}=200$  GeV, all triggers



Dijet mass [assuming zero mass jets] for near-side azimuthal correlation peak

Observe a 5 $\sigma$  peak. Systematic studies still underway. Could this be a new particle?

# Are These Really Jets?



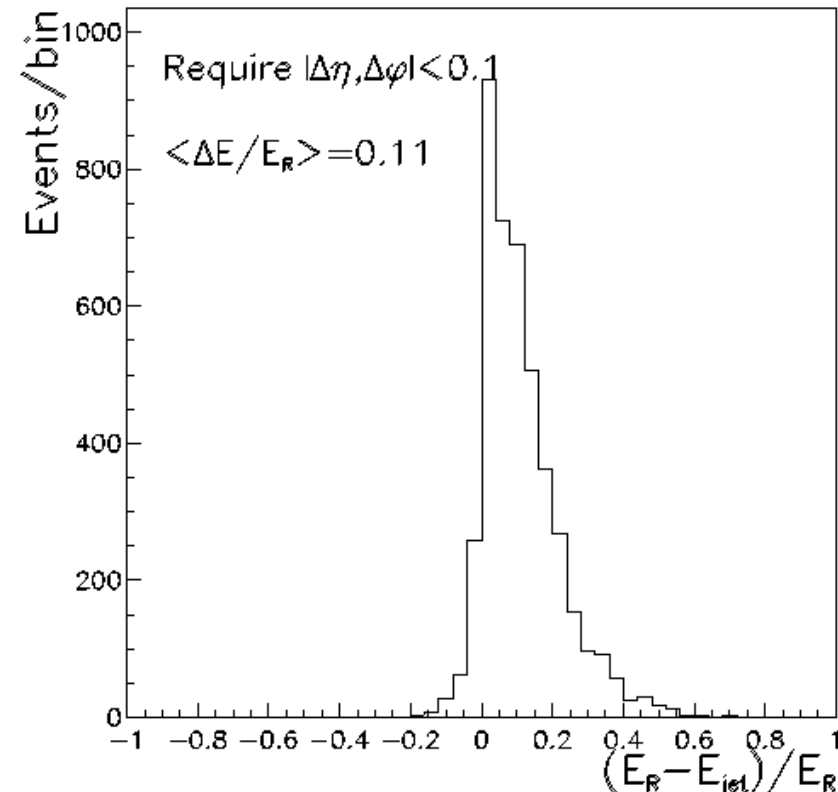
**Jet directions match input jet**

11/15/2016

- Embed detector response from jets from p+p at  $\sqrt{s}=510$  GeV with  $E_{jet} > 120$  GeV into minimum-bias CuAu events
- Reconstruct result events, and compare to input jets
- Effects are smaller when including peripheral collisions

**Jet energies shifted higher than input jet**

Cu+Au with embedded jets,  $3000 < \Sigma Q_T < 4000$ ,  $E_R > 120$  GeV



Low-x at RHIC

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# Summary

## Prospects for Low-x Physics at RHIC

- Improved forward instrumentation can extend experimental capabilities to allow measurements to  $x \sim 10^{-3}$  in p+p collisions at RHIC
- A prime example of applicability is to extend gluon polarization measurements at RHIC to low x
- Low-x physics with heavy-ion beams provides sensitivity to large gluon densities, and helps establish their role in forming a quark-gluon plasma
- Forward detector upgrades also give prospects for discovery physics